

Confirmation Program

St. Joseph's Church

(East Bristol)

2015 – 2016



**Come, Holy Spirit
fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.**

*Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit,
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen

CHECK LIST

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

St. Joseph's Church – East Bristol

- _____ A. Attend Parent/Student Meeting
- _____ B. Attend remaining Confirmation Instruction Meetings
- _____ C. Complete registration materials if not already completed
- _____ D. Complete homework as assigned
(Bring candidate books to meetings)
- _____ E. Volunteer Service Project – At least 15 hours (4 Hours at the Parish)
- _____ F. Furnish Baptismal Certificate unless baptized at St. Joseph's
- _____ G. Choose Confirmation Sponsor and be involved with the sponsor, both individually and together, at one Confirmation Religious Education Meeting scheduled for that purpose. **Complete the Sponsor form in this packet and turn in.**
- _____ H. Be a High School Junior (by decision of the Education Commission).
- _____ I. Attend private interview with the Pastor/CRE to determine readiness and decision.
- _____ J. You may select a Confirmation name if you wish. A form will be provided for your use and should be given to the Catechists by March 15.
- _____ K. Attend the Confirmation Retreat.

Service Project

**“We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give.”**

Because Jesus has given us the perfect example of service to everyone, and most especially to those who are poor or disabled in some way (physically or mentally) as well as to the “outcasts” of society, we as Christians, are asked to do the same.

There are many forms of service which Confirmation Candidates may choose to fulfill the requirement of service. This may be in the church, the neighborhood or some other worthwhile service in the larger community as a whole. St. Joseph’s religious education staff will be happy to work with you individually in selecting a service.

Please fill out the following form and include your signature, your parent/guardian’s signature and return it by March.

I have selected the following service in preparation for my Confirmation (Please include the name/type of service, where the service was performed and for whom):

Confirmation Candidate Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Christian Call To Service

In preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are asked to focus on service within St. Joseph's Parish community. The basic guidelines for confirmation service are that you "reach out" to help someone and that you recognize that there is a need to help without receiving money for your services.

The following are some suggestions:

- ✚ Help with the Elementary Religious Education Program as an Aide or helping children with their prayers.
- ✚ Do yard work, buy groceries, or do housecleaning for an elderly parishioner.
- ✚ Join the choir, volunteer to be a reader or server for the Sunday liturgies, assist with counting money, etc.
- ✚ Help decorate the church for various seasons.
- ✚ Volunteer to serve on the Church Commissions.
- ✚ Visit senior citizens at the various nursing homes.
- ✚ Read the Bible to an elderly person
- ✚ Shovel snow or rake leaves for elderly or disabled person.
- ✚ Play with motherless or fatherless child on a regular basis.
- ✚ Play cards with elderly persons in nursing homes in the area, assist with letter writing or any other service needed.
- ✚ Tutor young children in Math, Reading, Spelling, etc.
- ✚ Take a handicapped child for a day of fun.
- ✚ Collect donations for charity fund raiser.

SPONSORS

Sponsors are an important part of Confirmation preparation. In the early history of the Church, Sponsors were those persons who, on a one-to-one basis, introduced and supported their friends on their journeys to full participation in the Church.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE SPONSOR WILL SERVE AS A TYPE OF MENTOR TO THE - CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE. This is a time of serious decision-making: whether to confirm the faith in which the youth was baptized as an infant. Because the passing on of our faith is the privilege and responsibility of all Catholics, we are asking candidates to choose Sponsors with the following in mind:

- ✚ Your Sponsor should be someone whom you see as witnessing by his/her faith to what it means to be a Catholic Christian.
- ✚ You should feel comfortable with your Sponsor, someone with whom you can share together during your preparation.
- ✚ The person you choose must belong to the Catholic Church and have received all three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- ✚ The person should be sufficiently mature for his/her role: at least college age, male or female for any candidate.
- ✚ The Sponsor should not be a parent - a Baptismal sponsor is a very good choice.
- ✚ The Confirmation Candidate is asked to contact the Sponsor and indicate why he/she was selected. The Sponsor is encouraged to complete the Confirmation Sponsor form (enclosed in this packet).

IN SUMMARY, the sponsor should be a practicing Catholic Christian and received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, a person of at least college age with whom the candidate feels comfortable.

ROLE OF THE SPONSOR

The role of the Sponsor may be described in the following ways:

- ✚ Someone who is willing to set aside some time throughout the preparation program to get together with the Candidate and talk: How is the program going: Discuss your faith together. Talk with him/her about how other things in their lives are going.
- ✚ Vouch for the Candidate's sincerity and commitment to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✚ Possibly work together on the volunteer service project if applicable. Each Candidate is asked to complete at least 15 hours of service in behalf of his/her faith during the program.
- ✚ Make a special effort to pray for the Candidate during the period of preparation.
- ✚ Attend one scheduled class period for Sponsors/Candidates and the Confirmation rehearsal. The Sponsor should be notified of the Confirmation date since the Bishop has finalized it.
- ✚ Someone who will continue to be interested in and communicate with the person after Confirmation.

The closeness between the Candidate and Sponsor is meant to help both to build a bond and a commitment to each other and the faith shared. This is important so that on the day of Confirmation, the presence of the Sponsor, the hand on the Candidate's shoulder will have a deeper meaning than just someone stepping in from afar, with no previous involvement in the preparation.

SPONSOR SELECTION FORM

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE'S NAME:

I have asked _____

To be my Confirmation Sponsor.

(Candidate's Signature & Date)

SPONSOR'S NAME:

ADDRESS:

_____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

I have accepted the request to be the above Candidate's Sponsor.

(Sponsor's Signature & Date - Optional)

PLEASE RETURN BY DECEMBER 16