

ST. JOHN BREBEUF PARISH



CONFIRMATION

MARCH 27, 2021

The Sacrament of Confirmation

✓ What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to join us more closely to Jesus and His Church and to seal and strengthen us as Christ's witnesses. We are accepted as fully initiated members of the Church and are expected to take up the challenge of becoming mature Disciples of Christ. We view Confirmation as a sealing of our baptism. It is an opportunity for us to say "yes" to the vows taken for us by our godparents in the sacrament of Baptism.

✓ What does the word confirmation mean?

Confirmation means, "making strong" or "strengthening". The work begun by our baptism is strengthened or completed by Confirmation.

✓ What are the special gifts of Confirmation that give strength?

Receiving the Holy Spirit and His seven gifts give us the strength to stand up for and defend our faith.

✓ What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- **Wisdom:** enables us to see that all of life can be reduced to one simple truth: love of God and neighbor.
- **Understanding:** to see beneath the surface of a problem or an issue and to recognize what is really involved.
- **Knowledge:** to get the facts straight. To be able to recognize the difference between truth and error.
- **Courage:** Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge enable us to be convinced of what is good. Courage gives us the strength to be able to hold on to and defend that which is good no matter how difficult or dangerous it might be.
- **Right Judgment:** gifted by God's Wisdom, Understanding and Knowledge, we will be able to figure out how best to act in a tough situation.
- **Reverence:** this gift enables us to be sensitive to the love and holiness God offers us through Jesus and the Christian community.
- **Awe in God's Presence:** this gift enables us to have a keen awareness of just how special and awesome God really is.

✓ Who is the usual minister of Confirmation?

The Bishop is the usual minister of Confirmation. Sometimes, however, the Bishop will delegate a priest to administer Confirmation if he is not available to be present himself. In a large diocese it is impossible for the Bishop to be present at all the Confirmations.

✓ What is the reason for having a sponsor at Confirmation?

Your sponsor serves you in three ways. First, your sponsor serves as a role model for you in faith. Second, your sponsor is a companion on your faith journey, supporting you in prayer and in your search for the Holy Spirit. Finally, your sponsor witnesses for you before the entire Church. Standing by you as you are confirmed, he or she proclaims by that gesture, that you are ready and willing to accept the responsibilities and privileges of being a fully initiated member of the Catholic Christian Community.

✓ *What is the significance of a "Confirmation name"?*

Taking a new name for Confirmation enables us to honor our "patron" saint by living up to the ideals that made that saint holy and good. We choose a saint's name so that our patron saint can be a role model and to be someone to help and inspire us. If you choose not to take a new name, you can use your baptismal name.

✓ *What happens during the Confirmation ceremony?*

If the Sacrament of Confirmation is administered during Mass, the Mass will be the same as a regular Mass except after the Gospel, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered, and then the Mass will continue as usual. If the Sacrament of Confirmation is not administered during Mass, there will be the readings from Sacred Scripture and then the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered.

✓ *The Presentation of Candidates*

The presentation of candidates will take place following the Gospel. At this time the Pastor will present the Candidates for Confirmation to the Bishop, stating that they have completed the necessary preparation for Confirmation and are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. At which time, all of the Confirmation candidates will stand.

✓ *The Renewal of Baptismal Promises*

The renewal of Baptismal promises will take place following the Homily. The Bishop will ask you to stand and to renew the Baptismal promises that your parents and godparents made for you at your baptism.

✓ *Imposition of Hands*

The Imposition of Hands will take place following the renewal of the Baptismal promises. The Bishop will extend his hands over the candidates expressing the Biblical gesture by which the Holy Spirit is called upon.

✓ *The Anointing with Chrism*

We now come to the central action by which the Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred. With his thumb moistened with the Holy Chrism, the Bishop makes the Sign of the Cross on the candidate's forehead saying: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The newly confirmed responds: "Amen." Then the Bishop says: "Peace be with you." And the newly confirmed responds: "And with your spirit." While the Bishop is confirming you, your sponsor will be standing behind you with his/her right hand on your right shoulder. Following the anointing of each candidate, the Mass or ceremony will conclude as usual.

✓ *What is Chrism?*

The oil used to anoint the candidates is called Holy Chrism. It is a mixture of olive oil and perfume called balm or balsam; it is blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday.

✓ *What does the Sign of the Cross mean in Confirmation?*

The Sign of the Cross shows that we believe that our deliverance from sin and our restoration of God's grace comes only from Christ's death on the Cross. Impressed on our forehead, the Cross proclaims our willingness to share in the sufferings of Christ and to remain true and loyal to the forgiveness from sins.

✓ *What does it mean to be a witness to Christ?*

To be a witness to Christ means to know, to love, and to worship God in the way Christ wants us to. This means that we have to:

- Know what Christ taught by studying the Scriptures.
- Obey the Commandments of God and the examples of Jesus by keeping oneself pure and free from sin.
- Worship God properly by receiving and living out the Sacraments and by participating in the Mass each Sunday and Holy Days of obligation. Confirmation helps us to take very seriously these duties of knowing, obeying, and worshipping God.

✓ *What will be expected of you after you have received the Sacrament of Confirmation?*

After receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will be expected to be a witness of Christ, to proclaim your faith, to defend it, and to spread it whenever possible.

✓ *What are some of the ways you can promote the faith?*

You can promote your faith by prayer, worship and deed. Promoting and doing the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy, and by receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance as often as possible. "Living as Jesus taught us."



REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION

ATTENDANCE: Candidates need to be faithful to their Religious Education classes and the Eucharistic Liturgies to be prepared for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

MASS JOURNAL: Every week for three months (December thru February) each student will be required to reflect on the Sunday's Readings and Homily and write in their Mass Journal a short reflection on how to apply these teachings to their everyday lives.

SERVICE PROJECTS: Some students may have initiated their 15 hours of service during the summer months. Listed below are the service requirements for Confirmation 2021:

The candidates will be asked to commit to an ongoing project(s) with a **minimum of 15 hours of service**. This service should be performed freely and willingly. These service projects are meant to represent the candidate's intention of becoming a full member of this servant community, the Church, and special follower of Christ. The project should serve people around us who need help...the poor, the hungry, the lonely, the neglected. We use the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as our guide for the project.

The on-going service project should total 15 hours and be completed no later than **February 28, 2021**. Projects will be discussed often in the students' religion classes. Classroom discussions will also include regular check-ins to see how the service experiences are going.

PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:

Sunday, September 27 at 10:45am. Liturgy in Church – COMPLETED

CONFIRMATION MEETING FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS (Zoom):

Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00pm for RE students and 7:00pm for SJB School students.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION

❖ *Please make sure the following deadline dates are marked on your calendar.*

CANDIDATE DATA AND SPONSOR FORMS:

Due before February 1, 2021 - Be sure to completely fill out both forms and return by email to nancyz@sjbrebeuf.org OR deliver in an envelope to the black mailbox located outside of the Parish Ministry Center.

SACRAMENT FEE:

\$90 per student, which covers the retreat, gown, religious articles, certificate, photographs, etc. **This fee is due before February 1, 2021 and deliver to the black mailbox located outside of the Parish Ministry Center.**

SAINT NAME REPORT:

Each Confirmation Candidate will research and write a report about the Saint they have chosen for their Confirmation name. **Deadline date determined by Catechist/Teacher.**

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: (subject to change)

The retreat will be held in the SJB Parish Ministry Center from 9:00am – 1:00pm on **Saturday, January 30th for the Religious Education students, and Saturday, February 6th for the SJB School students.**

REHEARSAL: (subject to change)

EACH CANDIDATE AND THEIR SPONSOR MUST ATTEND – Tuesday, March 23, 2021 from 5:30 – 7:30pm in the Church. All Candidates **AND** Sponsors please meet in the Church promptly at 5:30pm.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION:

The Confirmation Ceremony is scheduled to be celebrated by Bishop Bartosic on Saturday, **March 27, 2021 at 1:30pm.** This may change due to the evolving state of COVID-19, and if so, we will inform you of any changes as soon as possible. All Candidates and Sponsors must gather in the Church promptly at **1:00 p.m.**

St. John Brebeuf Religious Education Program
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE DATA FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Completely fill out this form and return to the RE Office before February 1, 2021.

NAME: _____
For Confirmation Certificate and Church Recording Purposes (NO MORE THAN 3 NAMES)

CONFIRMATION NAME: _____
MUST BE A SAINT'S NAME

Sponsor's Name: _____
FIRST LAST

BAPTISM - *Baptism Certificate MUST be on file in the RE Office OR SJB School Office*

Date of Baptism: _____
MONTH DATE YEAR

Church of Baptism: _____

Location of Church: _____
(if other than SJB) *CITY STATE*

FIRST EUCHARIST / RECONCILIATION

Name of Church: _____

Location of Church: _____
(if other than SJB) *CITY STATE*

YEAR OF FIRST EUCHARIST: _____
YEAR

PLEASE NOTE:

The above information is part of the Candidate's PERMANENT SACRAMENTAL RECORD AT St. John Brebeuf Parish and is also sent to your CHURCH OF BAPTISM.

Parent's email address for notification of Confirmation video and/or photos:

The Information required below is for ordering your Confirmation Robe:

HEIGHT: _____
(FEET) (INCHES)

CONFIRMATION 2021

SERVICE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The candidates are asked to do 15 hours of Christian service. This service must encompass Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy and should be performed freely (no compensation) and willingly. The project is meant to build a relationship with less fortunate and is to be done in addition to any other community service, i.e. through Scouts or schools. This service project is meant to *represent the candidate's intention of becoming a full member of this servant community, the Church, and special follower of Christ. Fulfilling the Works of Mercy for each of us is a lifelong commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:32-46 tells us that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the imprisoned, we care for Christ himself.*

Some ideas for projects are listed below. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak there are many limitations on service and less in-person interactions available. Students need to discuss with their parents and together decide on appropriate projects and get them approved by the Director of Religious Education. If you have any questions regarding if something is an appropriate project, please check with Ms. Emilia Walasik: ewalasik@sjbrebeuf.org

The 15 hours will be supervised by your parents. They are responsible for making sure you get to your project and that you complete all 15 hours. **Due to the pandemic more than one type of service is accepted and hours should combine to a total of 15.**

Some examples of appropriate service would include:

1. **Volunteering to help with check in, greeting, ushering, etc. for Masses and Sacramental services** at St. John Brebeuf Church on weekdays or weekends. The student volunteer must be accompanied by one parent. **SIGN UP or for more information contact Liz McGowen at lmcgowen@sjbrebeuf.org** The different types of services include funerals on Saturday mornings, Baptisms and Reconciliation on Saturday afternoons, Masses on weekends and First Fridays. All volunteers require to wear a mask and will have a safe interaction with parishioners.
2. **Uncle Pete's** sandwich ministry. Mr. Peter Zonsius, a long time SJB parishioner, who died in 2012 begun this ministry that serves the needs of the poor through gathering and distributing resources to ease their burden. During the months of January and February you will prepare sack lunches (**in quantity**) for the poor. The 8th Grade Teachers will coordinate these meal packing events directly with Carolyn Murphy.
3. **Leading groups in prayer** to motivate, encourage, and inspire deeper levels of prayer. Lead and recite the holy rosary with an entire school group. Spend 3-4 hours in prayer by visiting a local Shrine. Create and lead an All Saints day presentation for an entire school group.
4. **Feed the hungry** by assisting with food drives and participating in CROP hunger walks to raise awareness in the community that people are not getting the food & water they need each day.
5. **Community services** by helping your neighbor in racking leaves or snow removal.

If you have any questions regarding which specific projects do or do not count toward the necessary requirements, please contact Ms. Emilia Walasik at the Religious Education Office at ewalasik@sjbrebeuf.org prior to beginning the project.

- *Every student who plans to be confirmed in 2021 needs to commit to 15-hours of service and have it approved by Ms. Walasik.*
- For verification please provide us a letter or log sheet of your 15 hrs project from the sites you have chosen. These should contain description of service, date, hours, and necessary signatures from a supervisor at each volunteer location.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL PAPERWORK FOR CONFIRMATION IS TO BE TURNED IN TO THE PARISH OFFICE IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED “RELIGIOUS EDUCATION”. YOU MAY ALSO SUBMIT TO YOUR CATECHIST WHO WILL PROVIDE IT TO THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE.

ST. JOHN BREBEUF CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT VERIFICATION

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

STUDENT'S PHONE: _____

LOCATION OF PROJECT: _____

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

SPECIFIC WORK OF MERCY BEING FULFILLED: _____

SUPERVISOR'S SIGNATURE:

COMMENTS:

ST. JOHN BREBEUF PARISH
Religious Education Confirmation Program
8301 North Harlem Avenue
Niles, IL 60714
(847) 966-3269

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

The best person will be one of your Baptismal Godparents. The *Catechism* (#1311) and Canon Law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a Sponsor. Having one of your Godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. Whomever you choose, your sponsor should be a practicing Catholic with whom you can develop a strong relationship.

The Sponsor is a person who helps you, the Candidate, learn the meaning of a life of faith in Jesus Christ and how to integrate this on a personal level. The Sponsor is never to be seen simply as a title. The Sponsor's role is a serious one, which serves to personalize faith and lead into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Sponsor must be:

- A fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (i.e., Baptized, 1st Eucharist, and Confirmed)
- A registered and practicing member of a parish
- 16 years of age or older –

Please note: Although the Sponsor may be as young as 16 years, not all high school/college-aged persons (and not even all adults) possess the time, wisdom, faith commitment, and maturity needed to serve in the role as sponsor. We **urge** parents to assist their child in selecting a suitable sponsor.

- Willing to be involved and present at liturgical rites involved in the program.
- Someone you can trust and talk with.
- Someone you respect and who can give you good advice.
- Someone who is accessible for conversation.

A Sponsor CANNOT be a parent of the Candidate

Please consider all of the above when deciding on a Sponsor. After you have chosen your Sponsor, please give them the "My Confirmation Sponsor" envelope which includes a sheet outlining their requirement as a Sponsor plus a form which needs to be filled in and returned. The Sponsor will fill out the form including the "Sponsor's Statement of Faith" section and then send the form to his or her parish to fill out the "Sponsor's Parish Certificate" section.

St. John Brebeuf Religious Education Program
CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____
PRINT First and Last Name

Sponsor's Statement of Faith

*I am a current member and/or
regularly attend Mass at:* _____

PRINT NAME OF CHURCH

I have been Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church.
I regularly attend Mass and frequently receive the Body and Blood of Christ.
I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.
I am over 16 years old and NOT a parent of the Confirmandi.
I believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and live my faith in word and deed.

YES, I CONFIRM THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE.

check to confirm

Sponsor's Name: _____
PRINT First and Last Name *DATE*

Parish Pastor's Name: _____
PLEASE PRINT

Parish Address: _____
Mailing Address *City* *State*

Please complete and return the top portion of this form BEFORE FEB. 1, 2021.
For questions please contact Religious Education at 847-966-3269 OR email to NANCYZ@SJBREBEUF.ORG

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Sponsor's Parish Certificate

To be completed by a member of the Clergy or Staff at the Sponsor's Parish

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge, _____
Sponsor's Name

- Is an active member of this Parish
- Is a regular participant in attending Mass
- Is a Catholic in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church

Parish Clergy or Staff Signature: _____

Please PRINT Name

DATE

Please return form by EMAIL to NANCYZ@SJBREBEUF.ORG
OR FAX to 847-966-0014 attention Nancy Szankowski, Religious Education. THANK YOU!

SACRAMENTAL MEETINGS AND CELEBRATIONS (subject to change)
FOR CONFIRMATION

SUN - SEPT 27	Presentation of Candidates in Church	10:45am	RE & SJB School
TUES - NOV 10	Confirmation Meeting (Zoom) For Students & Parents	6:00pm 7:00pm	RE SJB School
SAT - JAN 30	Confirmation Retreat in PMC	9:00am - 1:00pm	RE
SAT - FEB 6	Confirmation Retreat in PMC	9:00am - 1:00pm	SJB School
TUES - MARCH 23	Confirmation Rehearsal in Church	5:30 - 7:30pm	RE & SJB School
SAT - MARCH 27	Confirmation Celebration in Church	1:30 - 3:30pm	RE & SJB School