

*8th Grade Confirmation Candidate
Handbook
2011-2012*



*Saint Anne's Church
Garden City, New York*

Faith Formation Team Staff

Pastor: Msgr. Thomas Harold 352-5904 x204
Lyn Beck - Director 488-1032
Tricia Brodersen - Secretary 488-1032

Office Hours:

Monday 9:30 am - 5 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am - 5 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am - 5 pm
Thursday 9:30 am - 5 pm
Sunday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Faith Formation staff has an office in the rectory as well as the office in the school. The school office is opened during scheduled class hours: (Tues, Wed 3:30pm – 5:15pm, Wed evening 6:30 pm – 9:00pm when class is in schedule & Sunday from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm). At all other times the staff is in the rectory. If you need to pick up material in the school, please call in advance and we' ll be happy to meet you at your convenience.

Dear 8th Grader,

Welcome back to Saint Anne's Faith Formation after what I trust was a relaxing and fun-filled summer. I hope this year will be a wonderful faith-filled year as you begin the final preparation for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation.

As 8th graders you are entering your second year in the sacramental preparation course for Confirmation. Last year you spent the year focusing your course work on the life of Jesus, the meaning of His Kingdom, the Christian Life, and the Paschal Mystery. This year's course will focus more intently on the Sacrament of Confirmation and on the story of the church. The schedule for this year is quite different. "Confirmed in the Spirit" will provide our curriculum and attendance for all classes and presentations is Mandatory. This year we are asking each student to do 3 Mass reflections and they should be handed in to your class teacher on the date assigned. These sheets may be downloaded from the church website www.stannesgc.org under the Faith Formation tab. This site also contains other valuable information.

Wednesday evening classes are scheduled from 7:00pm - 8:30 pm. The Sunday morning school based classes are 8:30am - 10:00am. You will need to refer to the calendar for specific class dates. The home based classes meet at a time and frequency determined by the teacher. Home based groups are required to come to the mandatory presentations. We will only allow 1 unexcused absence during the year. Excess absences without a medical excuse may result in postponement of your Confirmation. If you are missing a class, please have your parent call the office to report your absence before the class meets.

This year you will be required to participate in a minimum of ten (10) hours of service. Some of you may have done some service over the summer. Regardless of how many hours you completed during the summer we will credit only 5 of those hours toward this requirement. Please do not be limited by the number 10 - service is an essential part of your commitment as Baptized Christians - and so it should never really end. There are many opportunities for performing service and it is very important that whatever you select as a service initiative, it must be something that will have an impact on another person(s). The service can be done for the church, the local community, your neighbor or any project helping those less fortunate than us. It must also be volunteer work performed for someone(s) other than your family. This is not to say that you shouldn't be doing things to help your family. On the contrary, as a member of a family this should be a given. The adult supervising the project must sign all service work. In addition, each student will be required to complete a Confirmation Service Journal on one service initiative. The Service Journal and The Faith Formation Service Hour Record are included in this packet. These must be completed by no later than **February 8, 2012**.

A meeting for parents and students is required in October. You will be notified of your date shortly.

This year you will be selecting a name for your confirmation. The Church wants you to choose a name that is traditionally Christian. It is suggested that you choose the Christian name that you were given at Baptism, because it expresses the relationship between Baptism and the renewal and strengthening of the baptismal promises that takes place in Confirmation. However, you are free to choose a second name at this time. It will become your confirmation name. Since the saints are our patrons and models you might select the name of a favorite saint. Don't be tempted to choose a name that is not Christian. Please find an outline to help you with this effort. The written report will be due **December 17, 2008**. It must be signed by a parent and handed into your teacher.

name just because it sounds nice. Rather look at the attractiveness of the Christian life of the saint you have chosen. You need to do some research into the life of the person's whose name you choose. This will be presented in a report. Enclosed please find an outline to help you with this effort. The written report will be due *December 18, 2011*. It must be signed by a parent and handed into your teacher.

You also need to select a sponsor. The person you choose must be at least 16 years old be a Catholic who has been confirmed, who has received the Eucharist, and who practices the faith. The sponsor cannot be your mother or father. Keeping in mind the connection between Baptism and Confirmation, you may want to select one of your Godparents. Parents must complete the Application for Confirmation by *December 18, 2011*. This form is included.

You will be expected to attend the Confirmation Retreat to which you will be assigned. This year the retreat will be held at Saint Anne's outside of school time. You will be informed of the date and time later in the year.

Confirmation will be sometime in the spring of 2012. At this time we do not know the date. As soon as the Diocese informs us we will notify you.

Enclosed you will also find a calendar for the year. It will be updated once the Confirmation date is assigned by the Diocese.

Sincerely,

Lyn Beck
Director Faith Formation

Tricia Brodersen
Secretary Faith Formation

Confirmation Review Sheet

1. *What is confirmation?*

The sacrament where we confirm our Baptismal promises to be committed to Christ and the church and we become more aware of the gifts we received from the Holy Spirit at Baptism that strengthen us to keep these promises

2. *What is a sacrament?*

Outward sign of Grace (God's life within us) given to us by Christ.

3. *What are the similarities and differences between Baptism and Confirmation?*

In Baptism, those baptized as infants were committed to God and the church by their parents or godparents and received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In Confirmation, the candidates reaffirm their commitment to the Church for themselves, and become aware of what gifts they received from the Holy Spirit at Baptism.

4. *In the early church, when was Confirmation received?*

In the early church, new members were baptized, received the Eucharist and were anointed by the Bishop and sealed with the Holy Spirit in one ceremony. By the 12th century it became impossible for the bishops to preside at every one of these rites of initiation and they separated the rite of being anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit as a separate rite that Bishops would perform whenever they visited a certain locality. This rite was called Confirmation.

5. *What is another reason that adolescents instead of infants receive Confirmation?*

Starting in the Middle Ages it was believed it was necessary to reach maturity to be able to fully understand the responsibilities involved in making a commitment to Christ and the church.

6. *What are the responsibilities of a Confirmed Catholic?*

- To express belief in Christ through prayer and worship.*
- Live according to the teachings of Jesus by knowing and following His two great commandments and the Beatitudes.*

Serve others by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

7. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are received at Confirmation that will help those who are confirmed carry out these responsibilities?

<i>Gifts to help know God's will</i>	<i>Gifts to help do God's will</i>
<i>Wisdom</i>	<i>Courage</i>
<i>Understanding</i>	<i>Reverence</i>
<i>Right Judgement</i>	<i>Wonder and Awe</i>
<i>Knowledge</i>	

8. Are the effects of the sacrament of Confirmation accomplished in the candidates once the rite is over?

The rite of Confirmation actually marks the beginning of a lifelong process of learning about and living out the message of Jesus. It is up to each candidate to continue this work in his or her own lives after the ceremony is over.

12. Why do candidates take a Confirmation name?

The name you choose should be the name of a Saint whose life is a role model for you and someone you can honor with prayers.

13. What vows are renewed at Confirmation?

Baptismal vows.

14. What symbol does the bishop trace on your forehead with chrism?

A cross - represents the love that Christ showed for us by dying on the cross, and the type of unselfish love we should show to others.

15. What experience of the apostles was similar to Confirmation (it also marks the birthday of the church)?

Pentecost

16. How many times can you be confirmed?

Once

18. What are the three sacraments of initiation?

Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation

19. What are the two great commandments of Jesus?

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

20. What were the 8 guidelines Jesus gave for achieving eternal happiness and name as many as you can?

The 8 Beatitudes (Blessed are the Poor in Spirit etc. p. 81 Confirmed in the Spirit book)

21. What is our goal in growing spiritually?

To become more like Christ

22. What two sacraments should you continue to receive regularly after Confirmation to grow spiritually?

Reconciliation and Eucharist

23. In which sacrament are you united with Jesus and members of the worldwide church?

The Eucharist

24. Why do we need to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation?

To become aware of ways we are hurting others and ourselves, to be forgiven for these and to try to avoid these actions in the future

25. What are the signs of openness to the presence of the Holy Spirit?

The fruits of the Holy Spirit

26. What are some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit?

Researching My Patron Saint

- *Find out more about the saint's life:*
- *Saint's name:*
- *Feast Day:*
- *Name or derivative you have selected to honor the saint:*
- *Place of birth:*
- *Year of birth:*
- *Year of death:*
- *How did the saint practice his faith?*
- *Family information:*
- *Occupation:*
- *Virtues this saint practiced:*
- *What are the exceptional qualities of the saint?*
- *What attracted you to this saint?*
- *How is this saint a model for today?*
- *Circumstances of death:*

**Application for the Reception
Of
The Sacrament of Confirmation**

Parents: *This form is extremely important in that the information provided will not only be recorded here at Saint Anne's but also at the parish of Baptism. This information will be needed when your child marries. Accuracy is critical.*

Please print clearly the information requested below and return the completed form in an envelope to Saint Anne's Faith Formation office by Wednesday December 18, 2011.

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

I believe this is the name of a Saint. I understand that my son or daughter will be required to research and present a written report on the saint whose name they chose. They may be asked to present this to the class in oral form. The due date for this written assignment is Wednesday December 18, 2011.

Date of Birth: _____ ***Phone No.:*** _____

Father's Name: _____

Mothers Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ***State:*** _____ ***Zip Code:*** _____

Name of Sponsor: _____ ***Relationship:*** _____

Sponsor's Home Parish: _____

Sponsor's Parish Address: _____

State: _____ ***Zip Code:*** _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

CONFIRMATION SERVICE JOURNAL 2011-2012
(due February 8, 2012)

Print Name: _____

Teacher _____

Please circle one: Church Service Community Service

Description of Service: _____

Number of hours completed: _____

Please answer the following questions:

Answers MUST be written in
paragraph form detailing what this service
opportunity meant to you.

These questions are to be incorporated into the paragraph:

1. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself". (Mt. 22.39) Who was the "neighbor that you served this week? What social needs or organization did you try to help?

2. What did you accomplish as you served your "neighbor"?

3. What did you learn about your "neighbor" during your service experience?

4. What did you learn about yourself? How did you feel afterwards?

5. What do you really think Jesus meant when he said to "love your neighbor as yourself" now that you have participated in community service?

8th Grade Schedule of Classes & Important Dates

September 2011

September 21st: First Wednesday night Class

September 25th: First Sunday Class

October 2011

October 12th: Wednesday night Classes meet

October 16th: Sunday Classes meet

October 19th: 7:00 P/M Confirmation Interview mandatory for parents and students assigned to Group1.

October 25th: 7:00 P/M Confirmation Interview mandatory for parents and students assigned to Group2.

November 2011

November 6th: 4:30 P/M Mandatory meeting for ALL 8th grade Students with speaker Steven McDonald

November 9th: Wednesday night Classes meet
1st Mass Reflection Due

November 16th: 7:00 P/M Mandatory meeting for ALL 8th grade Students with speaker Msgr. Tom Harold

November 20th: Sunday Classes meet
1st Mass Reflection Due

December 2011

December 14th: Wednesday night Classes meet
Confirmation Applications and Saints Reports are due.

December 18th: Sunday Class meets
Confirmation Applications and Saints Reports are due.

January 2012

January 8th: Sunday Classes meet
2nd Mass Reflection is due.

January 11th: Wednesday night Classes meet
2nd Mass Reflection due.

January 18th: 7:00 P/M Mandatory meeting for ALL 8th grade Students with speaker Bill Leone

February 2012

February 5th: Sunday Classes meet
Service Hours and Service Log Due

February 7th: mandatory Reconciliation for students assigned to Group1.

February 8th: Wednesday night Classes meet
Service Hours and Service Log Due

February 12th: 4:00 P/M mandatory meeting for ALL 8th grade Students

February 15th: mandatory Reconciliation for students assigned to Group2.

February 29th: Wednesday night Classes meet
3rd Mass Reflection due

March 2012

March 3rd: 2:15 mandatory Retreat for students assigned to Group1 5:00pm Mass to follow.