



REMEMBER, HOWEVER,
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A "SAINT"
TO BE READY FOR CONFIRMATION.
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE "PERFECT"
OR "HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER."
FAITH IS A GREAT JOURNEY -
YOU MUST ONLY BE WILLING TO GROW
AND TO TRAVEL IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS.

CONFIRMATION
GUIDELINES
2009-2010

St. Philip's Church Sacrament Preparation Expectations
First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation
August 2009

Celebrations of First Eucharist, First Reconciliation, and Confirmation will be once a year. Preparations for these sacraments will be coordinated through the Religious Formation Office regardless of whether the child attends St. Philip's School or Religious Formation.

It is recommended that children who are at least in 2nd grade prepare for both the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

The child preparing for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist must be enrolled in St. Philip's Religious Formation or St. Philip's School.

It is recommended that children receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before receiving First Eucharist. Parents may delay the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Eucharist if they feel their child is not ready.

A parent must attend the sacrament parent session, regardless if he/she attended a prior year or numerous years. If a child is preparing to receive both Reconciliation and Eucharist, a parent must attend both parent sessions.

Children in Religious Formation who are preparing for First Eucharist, First Reconciliation or Confirmation who are habitually absent from class may have the sacrament delayed. The Pastor and Religious Formation Director will make the determination. See the Attendance Policy in the Religious Formation Handbook.

Confirmation is a three year formation program beginning in 9th grade with the reception of the Sacrament in the spring of 11th grade. Youth are expected to attend Religious Formation class during this time three year time period.

The best preparation parents can give their child is to practice and live the faith. One of the most important ways to do this is regular attendance at Mass. An integral part of our children's faith formation is participation in Sunday Liturgy. While completing the sacrament lessons and attending Religious Formation class or St. Philip's school is important for the practical knowledge that is learned, faith should also be experienced. To be part of the parish family, to worship together each Sunday is to be part of faith in action. Parents, we expect that you will give your child these experiences – preparing for the sacraments at home, attendance at Religious Formation or St. Philip's school and Church – so that he/she will be encouraged to practice and live his/her faith.



ST. PHILIP'S PARISH CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES

Expectations of Confirmation Candidates

The focus of the Religious Formation High School Program is a three-year Confirmation formation Program for youth in grades 9, 10 and 11. Youth in 11th grade will receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the spring. During the three-years youth will be encouraged to fully integrate their Catholic values and beliefs into their daily lives. The requirements which are listed for each grade level should help the youth (candidate) track their progress as they move toward Confirmation.

The expectations which have been outlined are not constructed to merely be a set of hoops through which candidates must jump in order to “pass” to Confirmation. Thoughtful completion of these requirements will help the candidate arrive at their Confirmation with a sense that they are ready for this important step in their faith journey.

Youth are required to fill out the Confirmation Requirements form (attached) each year and return it to the Religious Formation Office by the last Religious Formation class.

The following is required for youth in grades 9, 10 and 11:

Regular attendance at Sunday Mass and Holy Days.

Reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once per year.

Regular Religious Formation class attendance. We are very fortunate at St. Philip's to have excellent Catechists/Small Group Leaders at the High School level who have demonstrated a deep commitment to sharing their Catholic faith with the youth. It is our belief that youth will benefit from attending class on Wednesday evenings. We recognize that illness and travel plans will occasionally interfere, but we consider solid class attendance as a prerequisite for Confirmation. Frequent absences will be a cause to question commitment to the Confirmation process and readiness to receive the Sacrament. Three excused absences per year are allowed. The Religious Formation Office must receive a phone call from a parent to excuse the absence before class is missed or youth will be marked unexcused. Two unexcused absences will result in a meeting with the Pastor and Religious Formation Director. See the Attendance Policy in the Religious Formation Handbook.

Three (or more) Service Projects to be completed each year. The service project component is an integral part of the overall Confirmation preparation program. The purpose of service should awaken the candidate to their own goodness and potential for serving others with the gifts they have received from God; engage them actively in efforts on the behalf of others so they might test their own skills and experience the satisfaction of doing so successfully; introduce the notion that service to others as a response to the Gospel can lead them to experience life at its deepest and most enriching levels; and alert them to the various ways their parish is actively involved in service to the Church and the broader community.

Service Project information is kept by the candidate on the Confirmation Requirements form. Service Projects completed during May – August can either be recorded as Service Projects for the past year or for the coming year. Service Projects do not “count” if you are doing it because you are required to do it for another organization – i.e. picking up trash for the Boy Scouts, this would not count if you are receiving some “reward” from the Boy Scouts for doing this or if you receive a monetary benefit from doing the service.

Candidate should attend at least once during the year participate/attend a Youth Ministry/Religious Formation activity or participate in a ministry at a LIFE TEEN Mass. LIFE NIGHTS are held Saturday evenings following the LIFE TEEN Mass, Diocesan Youth Rally and other Religious Formation/Youth Ministry activities serve as opportunities for youth to share their faith and have fun at the same time. Mass participation in ministry gives the candidate the opportunity to increase their appreciation of the Eucharist. Altar Serving can count as either a Service Project (see Service Project ideas sheet) or participating in a Mass. To participate at the LIFE TEEN Mass contact Abbie Kohler (444-4262 ext. 107). Indicate on the Confirmation Requirements Form the date of participation.

Additional requirements for youth in grades 10 and 11:

Retreat

All Confirmation candidates must attend a retreat in either 10th or 11th grade. A Confirmation candidate is considered in 10th grade when he/she completes 9th grade in May/June. Thus, the summer before entering 10th grade, the candidate may attend a retreat during the summer with prior approval and have it count as a confirmation retreat requirement. Attendance at the retreat must be before Confirmation.

A LIFE TEEN retreat is held once during the school year and will be held Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Candidates (11th grade and older) can also attend TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), a three day (9:00 a.m. Saturday – 5:00 p.m. Monday) retreat held in Crookston. TEC is offered approximately 5 times during the school year. Indicate on the Confirmation Requirement form the name of the retreat and date of the retreat attended. If the candidate chooses to participate in a retreat other than the two listed, contact the Religious Formation Director prior to the retreat for approval of the retreat requirement.

Mission Trip - A Confirmation Candidate may be able to substitute a mission trip for the Confirmation retreat requirement. The mission trip must be approved in advance by the Religious Formation Director. Once approved the Confirmation Candidate is required to maintain a journal during the mission trip. Failure to do so will result in the mission trip not counting as a Confirmation Retreat/Mission requirement. The journal will be provided and turned into the Pastor/Religious Formation Director at the end of the mission. It will be returned. Other requirements maybe assigned.

Please note: Failure to contact the Religious Formation Director regarding approval of a non-approved Retreat/Mission PRIOR to the Retreat/Mission may be cause for denial of use of the Retreat/Mission as an approved Confirmation Retreat requirement. In other words, ask the Religious Formation Director before you go on a Retreat/Mission if it will “count” as the required Confirmation Retreat.

Additional requirements for youth in grade 11:

One parent or both must attend a Confirmation Parent Session. At the session the following topics will be discussed: Confirmation, the parent's role, schedule, guidelines, retreat opportunities, questions and concerns. This session will be held in September or October.

Service Projects and participation at a Life Teen Mass or Religious Formation/Youth Ministry activity must be completed two weeks prior to Confirmation. Confirmation Requirements form must be turned in to the Religious Formation Office two weeks prior to Confirmation.

Candidates will choose a Confirmation Sponsor. Candidates should give careful and prayerful thought to the selection of their sponsors. A Confirmation Sponsor Guideline will be available at the Parent Session.

The candidate and their sponsor will attend two or three Signature Session together throughout the year. The candidate must attend the Signature Session. The sponsor is encouraged to. If the sponsor is unable to attend, a parent should attend the Signature Session.

The candidate and sponsor should meet monthly October through April. At the first Signature Session suggested topics to discuss when meeting will be provided to the Confirmation Sponsor.

Baptismal Certificate

It is mandatory that a candidate submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate if he/she were not baptized at St. Philip's Church. Baptismal Certificates are due in January.

Priest Interviews

Each candidate will have an interview with one of our priests in January and February. They are not meant to be an examination or test, but rather an opportunity for the candidate to raise any lingering questions which they might have before they are confirmed.

Confirmation Name

Candidates can be Confirmed with either their Baptismal name (given name, either their first or second name) if it is a name of a saint or choose a Confirmation name. A Religious Formation class session will be held in January to discuss Confirmation names. Candidates will be required to research the Confirmation name they have chosen and write a report. Information on the saint report will be given out in January. During Confirmation the Bishop will talk to each candidate about the Confirmation name they have chosen.

A Letter to the Bishop

Confirmation candidates are required to write to the Bishop and request the Sacrament of Confirmation. Information about the letter and time to write a letter will be done during Religious Formation class in March.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

The following list contains ideas for Service Project Activities for Confirmation. We encourage youth to design and implement their own projects. If you have questions as to “what counts” as a Service Project, contact Kris Jensen – 444-5849. Religious Formation classes may also participate as a group in a Service Project.

- † Baby-sit for a mother/father or family that can't afford a babysitter.
- † Shovel snow or do yard work for someone who needs help.
- † Help with sports activities for younger children (for example work with a basketball player who needs extra help).
- † Tutor students in elementary or middle school.
- † Serve as an Altar Server (must serve 2 times to count as one project).
- † Work at the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast on Sunday mornings after Mass. (Contact RF Office or Parish Office for contact person.)
- † Work at Catholic Aid Fish Fries during Lent. (Contact Parish Office or RF Office for contact person.)
- † Work at Catholic Aid Turkey Bingo. (Contact Parish Office or RF Office for contact person.)
- † Visit/Read/Play Cards, etc. with nursing home residents.
- † Work at the Soup Kitchen.
- † Surprise a younger brother or sister with an hour of your undivided attention.
- † Volunteer as an Assistant Catechist for the Preschool Sunday School.
- † Volunteer in the Vacation Bible School Program. (Some VBS volunteer activities count as 2 projects contact Kris Jensen.)
- † Help with hospitality after Mass.
- † Gathering clothing donations from neighbors or from your own closet for the Clothing Depot.
- † Organizing a neighborhood Food Drive for the Food Shelf.
- † Volunteering to help at a Special Olympics event.
- † Participate in walkathons or other fund-raising activities.
- † Help with the St. Philip's Fall Harvest contact Jodi Maki 444-4262.
- † Open your eyes and your heart to someone in your own life who would benefit from your time and attention.

2009 - 2010 CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

Name

First _____

Last _____

Grade in High School _____

ATTENDANCE

Religious Formation _____
Number of Absent Classes _____ RF SGL Initials _____

SERVICE PROJECTS

Three or more Service Projects must be completed each year
Briefly describe the project and date completed

Project: _____

Project: _____

Project: _____

PARTICIPATION AT RELIGIOUS FORMATION/YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITY OR AT LIFE TEEN MASS

Choose one or more each year

Write down the date attended on the line following Mass or Activity

Religious Formation/Youth Ministry Activity (describe) _____

LIFE TEEN Mass _____

RETREAT

Must be completed before Confirmation in either 10th or 11th grade

Name(TEC, Life Teen, etc.) _____

Date _____