

ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARISH
Religious Education Office
38 Church Hill Rd. Newtown, CT 06470
(203) 426-2333



October 4, 2009

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 Confirmation Preparation program! It is our hope that this will be an enjoyable, memorable, Spirit-filled process for you and your families. Through regular weekly attendance of classes, Masses, service projects, retreats, the Candlelight Mass and ultimately at your Confirmation ceremony, the opportunities for openness and receipt of Christ's graces are many!

The eighth grade curriculum is taught at the beginning of the school year, and Confirmation lessons begin in January. Please note that classes do not end with the celebration of Confirmation. Class sessions end on May 2, 2010 with the End-of-Year Mass and celebration. Another copy of the class calendar is included in this packet with information on required paperwork. The Sacramental Information Form and Sponsor Certificate are due in the Religious Education Office by *November 1, 2009*. All other assignments are due to your catechist by the Candlelight Mass on *March 14, 2010*. Confirmation certificates will be given and entry into Confirmation Registry will be made only if all paperwork is completed and returned.

Bishop Hart and Bishop Lori will be the celebrants for our ceremonies scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Scheduled Class
Friday, April 16, 2010	6:30p.m.	D. Grier, Cummings/Shine, Knox/Murtha,
Rehearsal April 12,	6:45–8:15p.m.	T. Balas, V. Walsh, M. Iassogna
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	
Saturday, April 17, 2010	9:30a.m.	C. Locke, T. McMorrow, MJ Runkle,
Rehearsal April 13,	6:45–8:15p.m.	St. Rose School, Kerins/Gerbo
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	
Saturday April 17, 2010	1:00p.m.	J. Musco, Wasicki/Hubbard, M. Judge,
Rehearsal April 14,	6:45–8:15p.m.	R. Phillips, Lucas/VanBuren, E. Goletz,
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	Home Schooled, High School
Thursday, April 15, 2010	4:30p.m.	Reader Rehearsal for Fri, 6:30 ceremony
	5:00p.m.	Reader Rehearsal for Sat, 9:30 ceremony
	5:30p.m.	Reader Rehearsal for Sat, 1:00 ceremony

Please read the enclosed information carefully and thoroughly and keep in a safe place. Please have your parents go over it with you to ensure all the dates are on your calendar and you schedule ample time to complete all paperwork. Again, all assignments are due to your catechist by March 14, 2010.

If you have any questions, please call me in the Religious Education Office. I look forward to journeying with your family as you complete your Sacraments of Initiation by receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. May Christ's peace be with you.

Sincerely,
Janice Lindsay
Sacrament Coordinator

Confirmation Essay

Once upon a time, your parents presented you before a priest or deacon, with family, friends, and the parish community as witnesses, to have you Baptized into the Catholic faith. The priest asked your parents, "What do you ask of God's church for your child?" Their answer: "Faith."

Faith is a gift – one that comes from God, given through your parents, catechists, and parish community. When you were Baptized, your parents accepted this gift for you and promised to raise you in the faith. Now, you are of the age to accept this gift from God for yourself --- to claim it as your own.

Through these final preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation - - - Ask yourself; "Why am I here?" "Why do I desire to confirm my own faith?" "How will my life be affected by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?" "Have my eyes and heart been open to others through my Faith In Action Service offering?"

Your Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, please type a one full-page essay detailing your experiences of your Confirmation preparation. Include answers to questions such as: Why have you decided to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church? Is this your decision? After experiencing the Sean Forrest retreat, how has your faith increased? You sacrificed your time and talent in offering your services to those around you; how has your heart been opened to the needs of our community? God has a divine plan for your life. How can you tap into His plan on a day-to-day basis and use the gifts and talents He has given you to bring His message of love and forgiveness to others? How can the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit be used as tools in your new life as a fully practicing mature Catholic. In what ways can your parents and sponsor support your spiritual growth, and what options have you discussed with them?

Every one of us has different gifts and abilities. We may be stronger in one area and weaker in others. For those of you who might be weaker in the writing essays department – be creative! Think outside of the box. If you can express the information - your personal experience of Confirmation and how it relates to your faith journey – in a different manner – please do so! It can be poetic, musical, artistic - just convey the above sentiment in whatever form you are most comfortable with, asking for God's guidance in the process!

Whether essay or other creative means – this assignment is to be completed **after** February 1st, and is due to your catechist **no later** than March 14th, 2010. Be sure to include your name and your catechist name.

CONFIRMATION REVIEW QUESTIONS

1) What is a sacrament?

It is an outward sign of an inward grace conferred by the Holy Spirit and instituted by Christ.

It is a community celebration of the mysteries of salvation and of the church. Sacraments use signs that bring us God's Grace.

Its purpose is to sanctify, build up the Body of Christ, and give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. By words and objects they nourish, strengthen, and express faith. CCC.1123

2) How many sacraments are there?

Seven

3) What are the sacraments?

Three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

Two sacraments of healing: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick

Two sacraments of service: Matrimony, Holy Orders

4) Which two sacraments are being celebrated on the day of Confirmation?

Eucharist and Confirmation

5) What is the first sacrament you receive?

Baptism

6) What is the outward sign of Baptism?

Water

7) What happens when you are baptized?

Original sin is removed and you become united with Jesus in His death and resurrection.

8) Where did original sin come from?

When Adam and Eve turned away from God.

9) What else does Baptism do for you?

Incorporates us into the Body of Christ by conferring us with an indelible seal (chrism oil is used as the outward sign of this seal.)

Unifies us with Christ and his death and resurrection (submersion and emerging through the water)

Become members of the church – part of the people of God

Conveys and exercise of freedom or free will – we have a choice – parents said yes for us

10) What life do we share in after Baptism?

The life of faith. We share in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus after Baptism.

11) What part of you does God live in?

God lives in every part of me - my body and my soul.

12) Is your soul real?

Yes, it is the part of me, given to me by God when I was created, that will live with Him forever.

13) What is the outward sign of Confirmation?

The anointing with Chrism oil and the Laying on of hands.

14) What is Chrism?

Consecrated oil used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

15) What do you receive as a result of being Confirmed?

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

16) How many Gifts are there?
Seven

17) What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
Wisdom Understanding Right Judgment Knowledge
 Courage Reverence Wonder & Awe in God's Presence

18) What does the Holy Spirit do for you and whom do you become like?
The Holy Spirit commissions me to carry out the mission of Jesus and His Body, the Church.
I do my best to become more like Jesus.

19) When you receive Eucharist, what is the outward sign?
Bread and wine

20) What happens to the bread and wine during Eucharist?
It becomes the body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation – changes form)

21) Who enables the Priest to transubstantiate (change) the bread and wine?
The Holy Spirit

22) What are the 10 Commandments?
The Law given to Moses by God as a seal to his covenant of love between God and His chosen people. They are a revelation of God's holy will for his people.

- 1) I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods before me.
- 2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- 3) Keep holy the Sabbath day.
- 4) Honor your father and mother.
- 5) You shall not kill.
- 6) You shall not commit adultery.
- 7) You shall not steal.
- 8) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 9) You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- 10) You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

23) What is the Apostles Creed and why is it important to know?
It is the Catholic prayer, which defines each of the central beliefs of our faith. It is important to know so that we are able to tell others about what we believe as Catholics.

I believe in God, the father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.
The holy Catholic Church
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting, Amen.

Confirmation Sacramental Information 2009-2010

Saint Rose of Lima Religious Education Office
38 Church Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470 Telephone (203) 426-2333 Fax (203) 426-8074

*All information below is necessary to register and obtain sacramental certificates upon reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Please do not leave any blanks. Due date: November 1, 2009*

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____
(As it should appear on certificates)
Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Birth Date _____ Birth City _____ Birth State _____
Confirmation Name _____ Catechist _____

PARENT INFORMATION

Father: First Name _____ Mother: First Name _____
Mother: Maiden Name _____ Different Last Name _____

BAPTISM

Parish _____ City _____ State _____
Date _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) *Certificate Verified by Rel Ed (Office Use Only)*

FIRST COMMUNION/EUCHARIST

Parish _____ City _____ State _____
Date _____ (MM/DD/YYYY) *Certificate Verified by Rel Ed (Office Use Only)*

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor's Name _____
(Last Name) (First Name)
Sponsor's Parish _____
(City) (State) (Zip)

IMPORTANT: Sponsor Certificate must be obtained by the sponsor from his/her parish and returned to the Religious Education Office by *November 1, 2009*. Please note candidate's name on sponsor certificate. Sponsors from St. Rose parish need only sign the certificate - Pastor signature is not needed.

Sponsor Certificate Verified by Rel Ed (Office Use Only)

Confirmation Symbols

The deepest realities of our faith are expressed in symbols and symbolic actions. Symbols externalize the inner experience of God's presence and thus intensify the experience for both the individual and the community. Simply put, symbols make the invisible, visible.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: The people who gather to celebrate Confirmation are themselves an important symbol. These people – our parents, sponsors, mentors, relatives, and fellow parishioners – *are* the church. The Sacrament of Confirmation confirms their decision to transmit the gift of faith to us, and our decision to accept the gift of faith as it is lived out in this Christian community.

THE BISHOP: The bishop (or his representative) who presides over the celebration of Confirmation is the symbol of the universal church. As a successor of the apostles, the bishop connects the candidate's experience of receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation with that of the first disciples, who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The bishop's presence reminds us that we are members not only of our parish, but also of the worldwide and timeless Catholic Church.

THE CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION: The candidates themselves are an important symbol in Confirmation. The candidates are a sign of hope and renewal for the entire community. The faith, prayerfulness, and efforts to come to a deeper understanding and acceptance of Christianity are an inspiration to the whole parish community. The celebration of Confirmation confirms the faith of the parish, as well as the faith of those being confirmed.

THE SPONSORS (MENTORS): The sponsors play a double role in Confirmation:

- They present the candidates to the bishop, vouching for their sincerity and readiness for Confirmation.
- They represent the entire community in welcoming the confirmed into an advanced membership in the church.

A candidate's relationship with his/her sponsor should continue after the celebration. Our sponsors should be a constant encouragement to us to live up to our commitment, and they should be ready to challenge us if we begin to grow lax.

THE WORD OF GOD: The Word of God read at the confirmation liturgy is a symbol and reminder that God continues to speak to us through the words of scripture. The Holy Spirit, whose gifts we celebrate, helps us to understand and to appreciate the Word of God that is read to us.

THE PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT: The bishop sings or recites the solemn prayer for the seven gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Right Judgment, Courage, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe in God's Presence. In the Hebrew tradition the number seven itself is symbolic: it means fullness, wholeness, totality. The church asks the Father through Jesus to send us the gifts of the Spirit in all its fullness.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS: The ancient gesture of the laying on of hands is a common biblical symbol by which the blessing and power of God are transmitted from one person to another. It is also a sign of commissioning, or "sending forth," to witness and do the work of God. In the confirmation ceremony the bishop extends his hands over the candidates during the prayer for the seven gifts.

YOUR NAME: Our names are a powerful symbol of who we are. The bishop addresses the candidates by name to show that they are important and that the gift of faith is offered to them as individual people. Sometimes a candidate chooses a new name for confirmation – usually the name of a saint or fellow Christian who they admire.

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM: Chrism is perfumed oil, which has been blessed by the bishop. The word Chrism has the same root as the word Christ; it carries the meaning of being specially chosen to do Christ's work as priest, prophet, and king. Oil is also an ancient symbol of strength. In ancient times soldiers preparing for war rubbed their entire bodies with oil to make them limber and strong. Some athletes rub oil on their bodies before competing. The anointing in confirmation symbolizes the strength we are given to share in Christ's work of spreading the kingdom of God and to do battle against evil.

THE SEALING: The bishop says these words during the anointing: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." In ancient times a seal was a stamp of ownership. A person's seal carried the weight in law that a signature carries today. It was both an identification and a pledge. A slave sometimes had the master's seal branded on his or her forehead. In the confirmation ceremony the candidates are sealed with the mark of Christ as the sign of the cross is traced with oil on their foreheads by the bishop. The seal, even though it is invisible, is a spiritual sign that we belong to Christ and to his family, the church. It is a sealing of our baptismal commitment.

AMEN: The candidate's response to the bishop, the one word "Amen," sums up his or her whole desire to say yes to the gift of faith: "Yes, I want to belong to the Catholic church. Yes, I want to be an active member of the community of faith. Yes, I want to respond faithfully and lovingly to the presence of God within my own heart."

THE EUCHARIST: The Eucharist is the culminating symbol in the initiation process. Developing a genuine desire to celebrate Eucharist with the community is an important aspect of developing our faith. Hopefully, the newly confirmed Christians will approach the altar with a new understanding of what it means to be invited to share in the body and blood of Christ in this sacred meal and sacrifice. By sharing in the Eucharist the newly confirmed and the community acknowledge their oneness in Christ and their common mission to live the Christian life fully day by day.

Saint Rose of Lima Parish - Religious Education

Janice Lindsay – Sacrament Coordinator

426-2333, ext. 4 strosere.conf@charter.net www.strosechurch.com

Confirmation Preparation Information



2009 - 2010

FAITH IN ACTION INFORMATION – 2009/2010

Service is a requirement for Confirmation, but as disciples of Christ, it is our lifelong commitment. Christ came to serve! His example and teachings encourage us to follow in His footsteps by looking for opportunities to help others.

“Christians, as disciples of Jesus, are called to a life of virtue.

Virtue is the habit of doing good that is achieved by the constant practice of unselfish actions.”

- ☺ By practicing the virtues of FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, PRUDENCE, JUSTICE, FORTITUDE, and TEMPERANCE in your daily lives you are drawn closer in your relationship with God and others.
- ☺ You develop a deeper understanding of the person God has intended you to be, and you set the example for your friends to follow.
- ☺ Christ works through you by performing *selfless* acts for others, which helps you grow personally and in your faith.

When choosing your service projects, ask advice from your parents and other close family members. Since they know your interests and God-given talents, they may have good suggestions for you. Be creative, use your gifts to do more than one service. Enlist your parents' help early, as they will be the ones transporting you to and from these service opportunities.

Important: Since you are preparing to take on an *adult role* in the Church, **you** should be the one to take **full** responsibility for scheduling and completing your service hours.

To meet your Confirmation preparation requirements for service, you are expected to begin your life-long practice of *Faith in Action Service* with the minimum of 15 hours completed by March 14, 2010 in at least *three* separate activities. If you did not return your service hours log from seventh grade, you now have a total of 25 hours to complete by March 14, 2010. Any service activity you completed since July 1, 2009 will count towards this year's service. To help you keep track of your service hours, please use the attached *Faith in Action Service Log*.

The following is a list of suggestions for service opportunities in the area.

Remember: Your parents/guardians should be aware of your service activities and be present with you or have arranged adult supervision for you while you volunteer.

YOUR COMMUNITY

- ☺ Prepare dinner, baby-sit, or do chores, free of charge, at least one day a week for a family (*other than your own*) going through tough times.
- ☺ Organize young children you know into a club that will meet at least one hour each week for educational or religious activities.
- ☺ Visit an elderly or homebound person who lives in your neighborhood to chat, share a meal or help with household or yard duties that have become too difficult to handle.
- ☺ If you are unable to travel then you can make phone calls to the home-bound, make sandwiches for the hungry, write letters and cards to the sick, inmates, soldiers, or to children who are hospitalized.

NEWTOWN

ST. ROSE of LIMA PARISH

- ☺ Read the weekly Church Bulletin for opportunities
- ☺ Organize a group of students with musical or creative abilities to assist in preparing music, decorations, and readings for special class Masses.
- ☺ Become an active member of St. Rose Youth Group - help with community service efforts like leaf raking in the fall. Contact Youth Group Director, Rodd Blessey @ 426-6068 for more information.
- ☺ Organize a food, toy or clothing drive to benefit those in need.
- ☺ Become a mentor or tutor to young children who are struggling in school or in sports.
- ☺ Show your love for God's creation by organizing or participating in a community clean-up project. Visit an animal shelter and befriend a homeless dog or cat.
- ☺ Write a story for the *Newtown Bee* or *Danbury News-Times* about a non-profit organization or someone you know that sets a good example as a disciple of Christ.
- ☺ There are many opportunities to help set up and clean up after events held at Saint Rose Parish. Check the bulletin for upcoming events and details or call the Religious Education Office.
- ☺ Sign up to be a Religious Education Catechist's Aide.
- ☺ Call Mrs. Kristen Velsmid (Parish Nurse Coordinator) at 426-2607, Mrs. Joan Dwyer (Social Concerns Coordinator) @ 426-9337 or Sister Mary Ellen Genova (Outreach Coordinator) @ 426-2572, ext. 11 for opportunities to help needy parishioners.
- ☺ Call Eileen Gallo (Garden Angel Coordinator) @ 426-8223 to help with outside chores like weeding, raking, gardening.

NEWTOWN YOUTH SERVICES (203) 270-4335.

THE FAITH FOOD PANTRY

- ☺ Located in St. John's Episcopal Church on Washington Street, near Sandy Hook Center, for collection and sorting of food items only. Parental permission required. Call Lee Paulsen at 426-5604 for further details.

BRIDGEPORT

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY of the MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

1490 North Ave, Bridgeport Call Sr. Theresa Tremblay at 203-334-7000.

Sr. Theresa oversees a pre-school and rescue mission, serving recent immigrants and the poor. The mission provides food, clothing, and household items; money for bills, medicine, and rent; assistance to senior citizens; and educational help. Help sort items and organize rescue mission rooms.

- ☺ Assist Saint Rose Chapter of the Knights of Columbus with renovation projects.
- ☺ Help with **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas** parties for needy children and their families.
- ☺ Organize a food, toy, clothing, or household goods drive.

DANBURY

THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF GREATER DANBURY: 797-1154 (Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-5p.m.) or visit the Center's web site at www.Volunteerindanburyarea.org.

INTERFAITH AIDS MINISTRY GIVING PANTRY

46 Main St. Danbury 9-5 pm weekdays. Call Gabriella Ambrose at (203) 748-4077.

☺ Work in the pantry 1-3 hours a day. Help collect canned food and personal care items.

POPE JOHN PAUL II CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE

33 Lincoln Ave, Danbury (203) 748-4077. Volunteer Coordinator -- 797-9300

☺ Help with mailing and gardening.

MONROE

SISTERS of the HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH at MARIAN HEIGHTS

1428 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe (Rte.111, near Rte. 34)

☺ Marian Heights is a religious community and infirmary that houses approximately 50 sisters. Call Sr. Ann Marie- to help in the infirmary, kitchen, and Saturday Bingo- 261-6595
Due to flu season, no volunteers during months of January and February.

SOUTHBURY

SOUTHBURY TRAINING SCHOOL

I-84 exit 14 (North on RTE 172 for 2.5 miles)
Call Volunteer Services @ 203-586-2497

TRUMBULL:

ST. JOSEPH'S MANOR/ HOME for the AGED

6448 Main St. Trumbull
Call Volunteer Coordinator- 264-6204

Select a service that speaks to your heart and spirit and GO FOR IT!!! Your experience will be whatever YOU make it. *Service should be selfless-- sometimes it is very difficult;a sacrifice.*
It will ALWAYS help you put your own life in perspective and help you to better understand the way Jesus WANTS you to live.

✦ The fruit of silence is *prayer*.

✦ The fruit of prayer is *faith*.

✦ The fruit of faith is *love*.

✦ The fruit of love is *service*.

✦ The fruit of service is *peace*.

FAITH- IN- ACTION PERSONAL SERVICE LOG – 2009/2010

Due by March 14, 2010

Student Name _____

(Please Print)

Jesus said, "Here I am among you as the one who serves." Luke 22:27

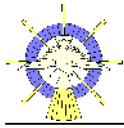
Come, blessed of my Father,
take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me... Amen I say to you, as long as you did this for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me. *Matthew 25:34-40*

FAITH-IN-ACTION PLEDGE: I pray that while I am preparing for full membership in the Church, I will become more aware and understanding of the truth that our Church is a servant community following in the footsteps of its founder, Jesus Christ. While reaching out to others in need, I will ask Jesus Christ to be present and work through me to help them. I pledge to *continue* to offer service to those in my community *beginning* with these 15 hours, (25 hours if 7th grade service incomplete.)

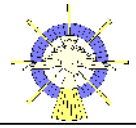
Date	Number of Hours	Type of Service Performed	Signature of Service Recipient

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____



Gifts of the Holy Spirit



WISDOM

The ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner.

UNDERSTANDING

The sensitivity needed to accept, care, listen, understand, forgive.

RIGHT JUDGMENT

The ability to make good and wise decisions.

KNOWLEDGE

The ability to comprehend the truths of the universe.

COURAGE

The strength to do what is right in spite of challenges.

REVERENCE

A deep respect for God, for others, and for all creation.

WONDER and AWE IN GOD'S PRESENCE

A sense of the greatness and majesty of God coupled with a deep realization of God's nearness.



Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

All powerful God, the Father of Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in Your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Rite of Confirmation,

Information-Overview

Your Inheritance

In order to become a full member of the Roman Catholic Church, a candidate receives the three Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

- Baptism** This process began with Baptism when you became a child of God and were welcomed into the Catholic Christian community. Parents and godparents promised to help you grow in your faith and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- First Eucharist** When you received first Eucharist, you were welcomed to the table to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. Every time you receive Eucharist, you deepen your relationship with God and the Christian community by sharing the Body and Blood of Christ
- Confirmation** When you receive Confirmation your commitment to God and the Roman Catholic Church is strengthened and sealed. During the Confirmation ceremony you are asked to say “yes” to the promises made for you by your parents at Baptism.
- In your preparation for Confirmation, you are asked to consider what it means to be a full and participating member of God’s family. This preparation will help you understand the full impact of your decision to be confirmed in the Catholic Church.



The following criteria for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation are as follows:

1. **Attendance and participation at weekend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation**

Participation at Mass is necessary for the spiritual life of a Catholic. Through the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, hearts and minds are opened and nourished to receive Christ through hearing His Word and receiving His Body and Blood.

2. **Attendance at Weekly Classes**

Like any educational experience – attendance and participation are vital to learning. If you are not present – you are missing out. The eighth grade curriculum covers the history of the early Church. In January, we begin the eight classes focused on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students with more than three unexcused absences from September – December or 2 absences from January – April will be asked to repeat the eighth grade and receive Confirmation the following year.

3. Attitude

A positive attitude toward Church, class, and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is essential. Mutual respect for catechists and fellow classmates is expected. *Christ is present in everyone.*

4. Sacramental Information Form

All student information needed for the Confirmation Registry that we currently have in our computer system can be found on this form. Please have parent check carefully, correct anything needed, and fill in any blanks.

- Student's first name as you would like it to appear on the certificate. Should be the full name given at Baptism.
- Parent's names, and Student Baptism and First Communion information is needed for Parish Registry. Please check carefully.
- **If the Month, day, and year** of Sacraments received is not shown on the Information Form, then certificate copies are necessary and should be attached to the Information Form. Confirmation certificates can only be issued if paperwork is handed in because this information is necessary for parish and diocesan registries.
- Sponsor name, parish and a completed Sponsor Certificate, (signed and sealed by Pastor) should be attached to the Information Form and returned to the Religious Education Office by *November 1, 2009.*

5. Confirmation Name

What a wonderful opportunity to choose a name for yourself! The saint or scriptural holy person you decide as your Patron Saint in Confirmation is very significant. Many of you have already chosen your Confirmation name through the "All Saint's Day project" you did in seventh grade. However, if you were not a part of our St. Rose Religious Education program at that time, or if you would like a different name, research a saint you are interested in. Learn about your saint's life, virtues and strengths, and how he/she demonstrated faith in Jesus Christ. Think of ways you could imitate him/her in your life. The Religious Education Library has many books/video tapes, plus there are on-line sites for excellent resources (e.g. www.Catholic-forum.com. or go to www.google.com and type in your saint's name). The Confirmation name chosen should be written clearly in the appropriate blank on the Sacramental Information Form.

6. Sponsor

Choosing a sponsor should be made with prayerful consideration. A sponsor is a practicing Catholic who supports the candidate in the teaching of the faith, not only in this Sacramental preparation, but also into adult life. Please note: Parents may not be sponsors or proxies for their child because of their primary role as parents. The enclosed *Sponsor Information* sheet is a resource to help in your selection process. A Sponsor Certificate is required from the sponsor's parish, signed and sealed by the pastor. The Sponsor Certificate should be attached to your Sacramental Information Form and returned to the Religious Education Office by November 1, 2009. The St. Rose of Lima Sponsor Certificate included in this packet may be used by your sponsor or his/her parish may provide one. St. Rose parishioners who are asked to be sponsors do not need the Pastor signature or seal, however, they must be a registered member of St. Rose Parish in good standing and sign the certificate included in this packet.

7. Faith in Action Service Activities

Prayerfully consider the special talents and abilities God has given you. Use these talents to volunteer your time in a Christ-like way by helping others. Important: The Diocesan Confirmation Preparation program requires that you complete at least 15 hours toward your personal life-long service. If you did not return your service log from last year, you are now required to offer 25 hours of service to those in need around our community.

- On the enclosed *Faith In Action Service Log* you are to list your completed service hours since July 2009.
- After hours have been completed, parent and student sign the service log and then return it to your catechist no later than March 14, 2010.

It is our hope that when you use your gifts and talents to serve others in the community, you find the meaning and importance of putting your *faith into action*, which should continue into your adult life. There is a suggested activity list enclosed, or call the Religious Education office for more possibilities.

8. Confirmation Attire

Students and sponsors should dress as they would for any special *church* occasion. Remember that you will be standing and bowing in front of the Bishop.

- Young ladies must wear a dress, skirt, or dress slacks (*appropriate length and coverage for church*). Please refrain from low cut, bare-shouldered tops.
- Young gentlemen must wear a suit or sport jacket, tie, and appropriate slacks. No jeans and no sneakers.

9. Picture Taking/Videography

In keeping with the solemnity of this celebration, Bishop Lori requests that pictures and/or videography not be allowed during the Mass and during the Anointing. There will be an opportunity to take pictures with the Bishop and Monsignor Bob after the ceremony.





Confirmation Rehearsals and Ceremony Dates

Date	Time	Scheduled Class
Friday, April 16, 2010	6:30p.m.	D. Grier, Cummings/Shine, Knox/ Murtha,
Rehearsal April 12,	6:45–8:15p.m.	T. Balas, V. Walsh, M. Iassogna
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	
Saturday, April 17, 2010	9:30a.m.	C. Locke, T. McMorrow, MJ Runkle,
Rehearsal April 13,	6:45–8:15p.m.	St. Rose School, Kerins/Gerbo
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	
Saturday April 17, 2010	1:00p.m.	J. Musco, Wasicki/Hubbard, M. Judge,
Rehearsal April 14,	6:45–8:15p.m.	R. Phillips, Lucas/VanBuren, E. Goletz,
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	Home Schooled, High School
Thursday, April 15, 2010	4:30p.m	Reader Rehearsal for Fri, 6:30 ceremony
	5:00p.m	Reader Rehearsal for Sat, 9:30 ceremony
	5:30p.m.	Reader Rehearsal for Sat, 1:00 ceremony

**Rehearsal sessions will start in the Gathering Hall and dismiss from the church.

**Sponsors or proxies are required to be present for rehearsal. If unavailable, a parent must attend.

**There are no regular scheduled 8th grade classes for the week of rehearsals.

If a candidate, parent, and/or sponsor believes that the reception of the Sacrament should be delayed, the option to do so is available. However, this decision requires guidance, and if a delay is being considered, the pastor should be consulted.

All questions can be directed to Janice Lindsay, Sacrament Coordinator, at the Religious Education Office, 426-2333, ext. 4.



CONFIRMATION SPONSORSHIP CERTIFICATE

I, _____, am a registered member of
Name of Sponsor

_____ and have been asked to act as a
Sponsor's Parish

sponsor for _____ as he/she
Name of person receiving Sacrament

receives the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Newtown, CT.

In accepting this responsibility, I state the following as truth:

- ✚ I am a registered, practicing member of this parish.
- ✚ I am at least 16 years of age.
- ✚ I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- ✚ If married, I was married according to the laws of the Church.
- ✚ I attend Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation, and I receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance on a regular basis.

I understand and take seriously this responsibility I have been invited to accept.

I promise to be a positive example of the Catholic Christian faith by the way I live and the values I embrace for my life. I also promise to support by prayer this person I have been asked to sponsor.

Date

Signature of Sponsor

Date

Signature of Parish Pastor

Parish Seal

Confirmation Sponsor Information 2009 - 2010

Prayerful consideration is to be made in choosing a sponsor, as there is responsibility. He/she is to be a positive example of the Catholic Christian faith by the way he/she lives and the values he/she embraces. A sponsor also promises to support the candidate by prayer.

The below guidelines for sponsors are according to *Catholic Church Law* and followed by the *Diocese of Bridgeport*:

1. A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
2. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. A sponsor is a practicing Catholic: Attends Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays, on Holy Days of Obligation, and receives the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance on a regular basis.
4. A sponsor, if married, was married according to the laws of the Church.
5. A sponsor is to support the candidate in the teaching of the faith, not only in Sacramental preparation, but into adult life.
6. A sponsor must be a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic in good standing and a registered member of their parish.
7. A sponsor **may not** be the candidate's parent, and parents **may not** act as proxies on the day of Confirmation.
8. Godparents, Grandparents, or older siblings are acceptable sponsors provided they meet the aforementioned criteria.
9. A sponsor who attends Saint Rose of Lima, needs to be a registered, practicing member. Call the rectory office for this information if needed.
10. A sponsor who is not a registered parishioner at Saint Rose must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from his/her own parish, signed and sealed by the Pastor.

IMPORTANT:

- * **St. Rose parishioners do not need a Pastor's signed, sealed certificate. Sponsors do however, need to sign the Sponsor Certificate before returning it to the Religious Education Office by November 1, 2009**
- * **Be sure to note student's name on the certificate for correct identification and recording.**

Sponsor/Mentor Resource

Confirmation candidates are the future and promise of our Christian community. Sharing in the life of the parish community is a vital part of Confirmation preparation. Many people have touched the lives of each candidate.

- ✧ *Parents first gave the gift of faith at Baptism and continue as primary religious educators throughout their children's lives.*
- ✧ *Teachers have taught the scriptures and doctrine of the Catholic faith.*
- ✧ *Parishioners pray for our youth as support in their preparation.*
- ✧ *Many others have given candidates a vision of what it means to be in a Christian community by their examples of service.*

SPONSOR

“Sponsor” is the traditional name for the person who walks with a candidate on his/her Confirmation journey. *The sponsor works as a representative of the church, welcomes the candidate and helps the candidate to see his/her important role in the church community.* According to the Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation there are three activities required of sponsors:

- ✧ *Sponsors bring candidates to receive the Sacrament.*
- ✧ *Present them to the Bishop for the anointing.*
- ✧ *Help them fulfill their baptismal promises.*

MENTOR

A mentor is an adult who works with the candidate during the preparation process in a more multi-faceted relationship.

- ✧ *A mentor should be someone the candidate looks up to as a person of faith-- someone you would like to become. Mentoring may involve teaching, guidance and/or counseling.*
- ✧ *A mentor has the responsibility of living the example, sharing their faith, and listening to the ideas and concerns of the candidate.*
- ✧ *Sponsors and mentors can be one in the same person. If your chosen sponsor does not live in the area, you will need a proxy (stand-in-sponsor) during the Confirmation ceremony--you may choose your mentor as proxy. A parent may not be a sponsor or proxy.*

In their relationships with a youth, both sponsors and mentors form a bridge into the Christian community. Their role is to . . .

- ✧ *Support the candidate in the process of becoming an active member of the church.*
- ✧ *To aid the candidate's growth in the Catholic faith.*
- ✧ *When done correctly, a faithful sponsor/mentor will help to open the candidate's heart to receive all the great gifts of the Holy Spirit and to be Christ's presence in the world.*

ST. ROSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
2009-2010 EIGHTH GRADE/CONFIRMATION STUDENT CALENDAR

- October 4 **8th Grade Confirmation Commitment Mass**
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm, Church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
Confirmation Packets distributed at this time
8th grade students will have class this week. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- October 11-12 **Columbus Day Weekend – Classes in Session**
- October 12 **Sacramental Parent Night for all 2nd, 7th & 8th grade parents & all Catechists**
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, St. Rose School - Gathering Hall Fr. Jim Sabak
Sacraments – What are they? What do they do? Why are they important to me &
my family?
- October 17-18 **Social Concerns Clothing Drive**
All Masses. Community Service Hours Opportunity
- November 3 **No Classes – Election Day**
- November 11 **Veteran’s Day – Classes in Session**
- November 14-15 **Social Concerns Food Drive**
During all Masses. Community Service opportunity each day
- November 30-
December 2 **Advent Reconciliation**
Grade 7, report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school.
Grade 8, report directly to class, pick up at school.
(Sunday classes welcome at any session)
- December 20 **7th and 8th Grade Advent Mass**
5:00 – 6:15 pm, report to church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
ALL 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND THIS EVENING
NO OTHER 7TH & 8TH GRADE CLASSES THIS WEEK. This Mass counts as
Sunday obligation.
- December 24 - 31 **No Classes – Christmas Vacation!**
- January 3 **Classes Resume**
- January 11 **8th Grade Sean Forrest Retreat**
4:00 – 8:30 pm, Gathering Hall, Sign In, Pizza dinner served
No Tuesday Night Classes this week. Attendance Mandatory
- January 17-18 **No Classes – Martin Luther King Holiday**
- January 24-26 **8th Grade – God’s Plan for Human Sexuality Talks**
Talks given during class times from our St. Rose Senior Youth Group members.
- February 14-15 **No Classes – President’s Weekend**
- February 22 - 24 **Lenten Reconciliation During Class Times**
Grade 7, report directly to class, pick up at school
Grade 8, report directly to church, sit with class, pick up at school.
(Sunday classes welcome at any session)
- March 8 **Parish Retreat**
7:00 pm, Church
For all parents of sacramental students (2nd, 7th & 8th grades) and Catechists

- March 14 **8th Grade Candlelight Mass**
6:30 – 7:45 pm, Church, Students and Parents and available Sponsors sit with class, sign in. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- March 20-27 **Social Concerns Lenten Food Drive**
All Masses. Community Service Hours opportunity
- April 4 **No Classes – Happy Easter!**
- April 12-14 **Confirmation Rehearsals**
(April 12 for Fri. 6:30 ceremony; April 13 for Sat. 9:30 ceremony; April 14 for Sat. 1:00 ceremony) 6:45 pm – 8:15 pm Gathering Hall then Church
Students and Sponsors (or Parent) must attend rehearsal
Reader and Gift Bearer practice from 8:15 pm – 8:45 pm
Assigned sessions – to be announced at Commitment Mass
- April 15 **Confirmation Rehearsal - Readers only**
4:30 pm (for Fri. ceremony), 5:00 pm (for Sat. 9:30 ceremony), & 5:30 pm (for Sat. 1:00 ceremony) Assigned sessions—to be announced at Commitment Mass
- April 16-17 **Confirmation Ceremonies**
April 16 at 6:30 p.m.; April 17 at 9:30 and 1:00 p.m.
Date and time assigned will be determined by class session – To be announced at Commitment Mass
- April 18 – 21 **No Classes! Spring Break**
Enjoy!
- April 25 **8th Grade Classes Resume**
- May 2 **7th & 8th Grade End-of-Year Mass**
5:00-6:00 pm All Students and Parents, Report directly to Church, sit with class
6:00-8:30 pm 8th grade students only report to Gathering Hall for Youth Group Celebration. Please Note – No regularly scheduled 7th/8th grade classes this week.
Sunday students encouraged to attend this Mass.
This Mass counts as Sunday obligation