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FYI

ST. ROSE OF LIMA PARIS

Religious Education Office

38 Church Hill Rd.

Newtown, CT 06470

(203) 426-2333



September 26, 2010

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 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, youth group events, retreats, the Candlelight Mass and ultimately at your Confirmation ceremony, the opportunities for prayer and fellowship with Christ and friends are many!

The eighth grade curriculum is taught at the beginning of the school year, and Confirmation lessons begin in January. Our school year ends on May 1st, with the End-of-Year Mass and youth group celebration. Another copy of the class calendar is included in this packet along with information on required paperwork. The Sacramental Information Form, required Baptismal and First Communion Certificates, and your Sponsor's Certificate are due in the Religious Education Office by *November 1, 2010*. All other assignments are due to your catechist by the Candlelight Mass on *March 13, 2011*. Confirmation certificates will be given and entry into Confirmation Registry will be made only if all paperwork is completed and returned, and you have attended required events.

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

Date	Time	Scheduled Class
Friday, April 15, 2011	6:30p.m.	Sequenzia/Conway, M. Sippin, K. Conte,
Rehearsal April 11,	6:45-8:15p.m.	Brestovansky/Schumacher, D. Williamson,
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15-8:45p.m.	Peterson/Reilly, E. Contarino
Saturday, April 16, 2011	9:30a.m.	C. Locke, T. Morgan, D. Olah, M. Zeller
Rehearsal April 12,	6:45-8:15p.m.	St. Rose School, M. Lynch
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15-8:45p.m.	
Saturday April 16, 2011	1:00p.m.	C. Fish, P. Gerety, R&C Smith, T. Fahey
Rehearsal April 13,	6:45-8:15p.m.	R. Baranowski, Home Schooled, High School,
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15-8:45p.m.	T. Balas
Thursday, April 14, 2011	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 13, 2011.

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

Saint Rose of Lima Parish - Religious Education

Janice Lindsay – Sacrament Coordinator

426-2333, ext. 4 sacraments@strosechurch.com www.strosechurch.com

*Confirmation Preparation
Information and Assignments*



2010 - 2011

ST. ROSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2010-2011 CALENDAR
EIGHTH GRADE - CONFIRMATION

- September 26 **8th Grade Confirmation Commitment Mass and Youth Group Night**
4:30 – 8:15 pm, Church, Students and Parents sit with class, Sign In
After Mass (5:30) Students attend Youth Group Night in Hall until 8:15pm.
Parents remain in church until 6:15 for Information Night. Confirmation Packets distributed at this time.
8TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL HAVE CLASS THIS WEEK. This Mass counts as Sunday obligation
- October 10-11 **Columbus Day Weekend – Classes in Session**
- October 16-17 **Social Concerns Clothing Drive**
After all Masses. Knights of Columbus Building - Community Service Hours Opportunity
- November 2 **No Classes – Election Day**
- November 11 **Sacramental Parent Night for all 2nd, 7th & 8th grade Parents & all Catechists**
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, St. Rose School - Gathering Hall
Fr. Peter Cameron – “What Motivates People to Say ‘Yes’ to Jesus Christ?”
- November 13-14 **Social Concerns Food Drive**
After all Masses. Knights of Columbus Building - Community Service opportunity each day
- November 28 **Sunday Sessions Advent Reconciliation**
Grades 6-8 report directly to class.
- November 29-30 **Weekday Advent Reconciliation**
Grade 7, report directly to church, sit with class
Grade 8, report directly to class.
- December 19 **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 26-31 **No Classes – Christmas Vacation! Classes Resume January 2nd.**
- January 9 **8th Grade Sean Forrest Retreat**
4:00 – 8:30 pm, Gathering Hall, Sign In, Pizza dinner served
THERE WILL BE CLASSES THIS WEEK
- January 16-17 **No Classes – Martin Luther King Holiday**
- January 23-25 **8th Grade – God’s Plan for Human Sexuality Talks**
Presentations given during class times from our St. Rose Adults & Senior Youth Group members.
- February 6-8 **8th Grade Class Visits with Msgr. Bob**
During class times – Students should be in class on time!
- February 20-21 **No Classes – President’s Weekend**
- February 28 **7th/8th Grade Parent Forum: Community Drug and Alcohol Prevention Forum**
(forum speakers: Msgr. Bob, Judy Blanchard, and John Hamilton)
7:00 – 8:15 pm – Church - All 7th and 8th grade Parents –Sign-in. Open to all Newtown Community
- March 18, 25 **Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry (tentative dates)**
April 1 5:00- 8:00 pm, Gathering Hall (snow date April 8) Community Service opportunity each day
- March 13 **Daylight Savings Time**
Spring ahead! Move clocks forward one hour.

- March 13 **8th Grade Fruits of the Spirit and Candlelight Mass**
6:30 – 8:00 pm, Church, Students and Parents and available Sponsors sit with class, sign in.
This Mass counts as Sunday obligation. **THERE WILL BE CLASS THIS WEEK**
- March 13 **Sunday Sessions Lenten Reconciliation and Almsgiving Talks During Class Times**
Grades 6 - 8 report directly to gathering Hall, sit with class
- March 14-15 **Weekday Lenten Reconciliation and Almsgiving Talks During Class Times**
Grade 7, report directly to class
Grade 8, report directly to church, sit with class
- April 9-10 **Social Concerns Lenten Food Drive**
All Masses. Knights of Columbus building
Community Service Hours opportunity
- April 10-13 **Registration for Religious Education 2011-2012**
During all class times in Gathering Hall; Extremely important that all attend!
- April 11-13 **Confirmation Rehearsals**
(Apr. 11th, for Fri. 6:30 ceremony; Apr. 12th for Sat. 9:30 ceremony; Apr. 13th 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 – Announced at Commitment Mass
- April 14 **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–Announced at Commitment Mass
- April 15-16 **Confirmation Ceremonies**
April 15th at 6:30 p.m.; April 16th at 9:30 and 1:00 p.m.
Date and time assigned will be determined by class session – Announced at Commitment Mass
- April 17-22 **No Classes! Spring Break**
Enjoy!
- April 24 **No Classes – Happy Easter!**
- May 1 **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

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 guidelines for preparing to celebrate 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. Your relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son, and the Holy Spirit within you are strengthened.

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 will be asked to repeat the eighth grade and receive Confirmation the following year. Attendance is *that* important!

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, fill in any blanks, attach Baptismal and First Communion certificates if needed, attach Sponsor certificate, and return to catechist or Religious Education Office by November 1st.

- 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 1st*. St. Rose Sponsors do not need the Pastor's signature, however the Sponsor must sign certificate, accepting responsibility for this role.

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 preferred name + Catholic Saint). The Confirmation name chosen should be written clearly in the appropriate blank at the top of the Sacramental Information Form. Forms without a Confirmation Name listed will have their Baptismal name assigned.

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, and the promises they already accepted on behalf of their child at Baptism. 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 1st. 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, sign the certificate included in this packet, and return with the Information Form.

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*, please list any service projects you have completed after June 2010.
- Once you have offered 15 hours of service, parent and student should sign the service log and then return it to your catechist no later than March 13th.

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. Discuss the possibilities with your parents and/or sponsor. What can you do for others that would give you joy in knowing you have helped another?

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-backed, or sleeveless tops.
- Young gentlemen must wear a suit or sport jacket, (tucked-in) button down shirt, 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

Ceremony Date	Time	Scheduled Class
Friday, April 15, 2011	6:30p.m.	Sequenzia/Conway, M. Sippin, K. Conte,
Rehearsal April 11,	6:45–8:15p.m.	Brestovansky/Schumacher, D. Williamson,
Reader/Gift Bearers	8:15–8:45p.m.	Peterson/Reilly, E. Contarino
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	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 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 or e-mail at sacraments@strosechurch.com.

The complete Confirmation Packet will be available on the parish website with additional parish information at www.strosechurch.com.

Confirmation Sponsor Information 2010 - 2011

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 practices their faith, 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 been Confirmed in the Catholic Church.
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. Saint Rose Sponsors must sign the attached Sponsor Certificate and return.

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 1st.**
- * **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.*

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 Catholic 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

FAITH IN ACTION INFORMATION – 2010/2011

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, first things first --- Pray! Where do you believe God is sending you? How is God asking you to be Christ for others? Then, ask advice from your parents, sponsor, 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 13, 2011 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 13th. Any service activity you completed since June 2010 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. Doing these things for your family is a wonderful way to show love and respect, but is also considered part of family responsibility.
- ☺ 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. Learn how to sew blankets for newborns or knit/crochet shawls for the sick.

NEWTOWN

ST. ROSE of LIMA PARISH

- ☺ Read the weekly Church Bulletin for various 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. Plan a tag sale and donate the proceeds to an established charity or our own Social Concerns Committee.
- ☺ 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.
- ☺ 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. Joan Dwyer (Social Concerns Coordinator) @ 426-9337, regarding church-sponsored food and clothing drives 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 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Sandy Hook or
NEWTOWN SOCIAL SERVICES at 203-270-4330

- ☺ For collecting and sorting of food items. Parental permission required. Call for additional details and specific needs.

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 – 2010-2011

Due by March 13, 2011

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: _____

Confirmation Essay Assignment

Due Date - March 13, 2011

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?"

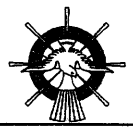
Your Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, please type a one full-page essay detailing your experiences of your Confirmation preparation. Include answers to questions such as: Why have you decided to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church? Is this your decision? After experiencing the Sean Forrest retreat, 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 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 the Sean Forrest retreat on January 9th, and is due to your catechist no later than March 13th. Be sure to include your name and your catechist name.



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 to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

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.

CONFIRMATION REVIEW QUESTIONS

Asked by the Bishop during the Confirmation ceremonies. Share these questions with your Sponsor!

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.