

† ST. JOHN BERCHMANS
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION

Rosalinda Rodriguez
Director of Faith Formation & Religious Education
434-3247

Confirmation Meeting Dates/Times

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Parent Meeting	Sept. 23/1:15 p.m.	Church
Confirmation Presentation	Oct. 14/12:00 Mass	Church
Sponsor/Candidate Meeting	Nov. 11/10:45 a.m.	Cafeteria
Parent Meeting	Mar. 17/1:15 p.m.	Church
Interviews	Apr. 27/9:00 a.m.	School/Rectory
Rehearsal	Depends on day of Confirmation TBA	

Confirmation Tasks Due Dates

<u>Task</u>	<u>Date Due</u>
Candidate Form	Oct. 21, 2012
Confirmation Name	Dec. 09, 2012
Sponsor Statement	Feb. 17, 2013
Letter to Bishop	March 17, 2013
Service Hours	Apr. 21, 2013
Baptism Report	Apr. 21, 2013

Dress Code

Confirmation is a joyful yet serious event and the way one dresses should reflect that.

- Young men should be in dress slacks and shirt and tie and dress shoes.
- Young women should wear a dress or dressy slacks and blouse. No spaghetti straps or strapless tops. Dressy shoes.

All tasks must be turned in to the DRE at the CCD Office.

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Confirmation Service Project (page 1)

What is Confirmation?

“Confirmation is a deepening of baptismal gifts. The sacrament roots us more deeply in our identity as God's children; unites us more firmly with Christ; increases in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit; binds us more closely to the Church; and gives us special strength to bear witness to our faith” (CCC #1303).

What does this mean?

We are part of a community: a community whose whole mission is to live as Christ. We are taught to serve the community and be our 'brother's keeper.' Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40)

Service hours are not just about getting them done with to make your Confirmation; they are about experiencing living and loving as Christ. This is why we are required to experience several types of service.

What is required?

At St. John Berchmans you are required to complete a minimum of 35 hours of service in order to be considered ready for Confirmation.

7 'family' hours

14 'Parish' hours

14 'community' hours

20 bible study hours can take the place of service hours; you will only need to complete 5 hours in each category, if you opt to take bible study.

What counts for each category?

Family Service: These hours are chores done for the family over and above what you are normally responsible for at home. These hours should focus on building up and serving your family. Every family is different. Discuss some extra things you can do to serve your family. Go beyond what is expected of you.

Parish Service: Parish hours are spent helping the parish community of St. John Berchmans. You can focus on being more active in the liturgical ministry (lector, usher, altar server), helping in fundraisers, and other parish outreach.

Community Service: Community hours should focus on helping the local community. Some examples are volunteering at nursing homes, park and recreation, animal care services, tutoring children with homework, etc.

Bible Study: Bible Study hours focus on discussing and assimilating Jesus' teachings and incorporating them into our daily lives.

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Confirmation Service Project (page 2)

What are the Service Project Guidelines?

- You cannot accept payment for any service hours
- You cannot "double up", that is, count service hours for Confirmation and school, etc and vice-versa
- These hours must be completed by April
- All service hours must be logged and signed off on Service Log Form
- Service hours are the candidate's responsibilities **not the parents**. You need to seek opportunities, make the phone calls, and perform the service.

What is the Service Project Reflection?

You must complete at least one Project Reflection. The following are guidelines for the reflection:

- ➔ One page typed or written neatly; double spaced; size 12 font
- ➔ Keep notes after each project
- ➔ Things to include:
 - What you did
 - Why you chose this project
 - Who benefitted from the experience and how
 - Did you have to prepare? If so, how?
 - Did the experience impact you?
 - Was it what you expected? Explain.

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Service Projects

An important component of the Confirmation Process is Service Projects. St. John Berchmans Church requires the completion of 35 hours of service, or 20 of bible study and 5 hours completed in the family, 5 in the parish, and 5 in the community.

Examples of service within the Church setting include: altar serving, joining a Mass choir, volunteering for Church sponsored activities, helping in the CCD office, etc.

Community service could include: tutoring children after school, collecting non-perishable food for the poor (Thanksgiving, Christmas, St. Vincent de Paul Society), volunteering with parks and recreation or animal care service, mowing the lawn for an elderly neighbor (without pay), etc.

All service projects should be documented on the Service Project Log form by the candidate. He/she is responsible for tracking and documenting the hours. They should be turned into the CCD office as they are completed. Going over and beyond the required hours is a sign of maturity and true understanding of your mission as a confirmed Catholic.

There are many opportunities for you to develop your own projects for a cause that may be important to you. How about helping with a CCD fundraiser or for a special cause? Or a special project to help Father Rudy beautify the Church grounds. (Father Rudy mows the Church lawn himself!!) Think about your gifts and talents. How does God want you to use them?

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Letter to the Bishop

What should be included in your letter?

Candidate's Name: _____ Date: _____

Parish: _____ City: _____

Please type your letter

- ¶ #1 Who you are?
Where you go to school?
What you enjoy doing (hobbies)?
- ¶ #2 Why do you want to be Confirmed?
- ¶ #3 What you have done to prepare for Confirmation?
- attend CCD
 - attend Retreat
 - work with your sponsor
 - attend Mass
- ¶ #4 What service projects you did?
What did you learn from them?
- ¶ #5 Conclusion
- "Looking forward to seeing and celebrating my Confirmation with you."

Sincerely,

Sign your Name

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Confirmation Sponsor Form

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Sponsor's Statement of Faith

I, _____, hereby state that I am:

- baptized and confirmed Catholic
- a member of _____ Parish
- living as a practicing Catholic

I testify that the above statements are true.

Sponsor's
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor's Parish Certificate

This is to certify that to the best of our knowledge,

(Name of sponsor)

- Is a member of this parish
- Is a regular participant in Sunday worship
- Is a Catholic canonically in good standing

Parish Seal

Church of _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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For the Sponsor

You have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor. Congratulations!

This Confirmandi sees and is impressed by your profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about him/her and his/her faith. Are you overwhelmed by the responsibility? It isn't that complicated if you have the time, a caring heart and a listening ear. If you are a mature practicing Catholic, don't worry. These are some suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor:

- Be a living model of faith. What this young person admires in you is your faith and how you practice it. Get yourself together. Don't become artificially saintly, simply be authentic and sincere.
- Pray for your candidate and yourself. As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also.
- Give your time and share your gifts. You will have to spend time together to prepare lessons or work on Service Projects. Please share your own experiences or write a letter of encouragement.
- **Don't** miss the ceremony. Being there is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name and hand over the information card. You are there for support and to encourage the newly confirmed in a new beginning.
- Don't forget the newly Confirmed Catholic. After Confirmation, make an effort to always send a card on the date of the Confirmation or call. Get together to go to Mass and continue to become involved in service projects. Live the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Confirmation Sponsor's Form. Please make sure you fill in and get your parish seal on the Sponsor's Form and turn it in on time.

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Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

The Catechism (#1311) and canon law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a sponsor. Having one of your godparents helps to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. You're looking for someone you trust. Someone whose faith you admire. Someone who will be there for you. You can choose a relative, a friend or someone from the parish as a sponsor.

The sponsor is someone who helps you, the candidate, learn the meaning of faith in Jesus Christ and how to integrate it in your personal life. The sponsor is not just a title. The sponsor's role is a serious one. The sponsor must be:

- A practicing Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed, First Eucharist)
- A member of a parish (Attends Mass regularly)
- 16 years or older
- Willing to be involved and be present at meetings and rites in the program

A sponsor must **NOT** be:

- A parent of the candidate

Please choose your sponsor with care using the above information as a guide.

After you have chosen your sponsor give them the "For the Sponsor" sheet and the Confirmation Sponsor Form. Fill out the Confirmation candidate information on the top of the form and give to the sponsor. The sponsor will fill out the "Sponsor's Statement of Faith" section and then have the parish fill out the "Sponsor's Parish Certificate" section, complete with parish seal. The completed form then needs to be turned in to St. John Berchmans Religious Education and Faith Formation Office.

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Confirmation Name Form

Candidate's Name: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

I chose this Name because: _____

What was this Saint's special gift and how was he/she called to use it:

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Service Project Report

Candidate's Name: _____

Was this project a Parish project or a Community project?

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Total Hrs: _____

Describe the service project (setting, service performed, etc.):

How do you feel this project was a service to your Parish/Community (who was served, how, etc?) *Use back of this form if necessary.*

What did you learn from taking part in this project? *Use back of this form if necessary.*
