

Sponsor Expectations

Thank you so much for saying yes to the young man or woman who asked you to help them prepare for Confirmation. The brief description below and the additional reflection pages attached will give you a good start in your role as a Confirmation Sponsor. If you have questions or need to talk about modifying any expectations, please contact Craig or Becky Swanson, Confirmation Coordinators, at St. Patrick Faith Formation Offices: 715-386-9209, press 2, then 8.

This is intended to be a two year journey. Other than the Letter of Intent the other sheets and topics can be used at any time over the two year period.

We will schedule a sponsor meeting in the fall that we hope you will be able to attend. At that meeting we will explore the spirituality of the sponsor's role in the process of Christian Initiation.

Sponsor/Confirmation Candidate To Do List

You are expected to meet with your candidate in an ongoing basis throughout the confirmation preparation process. To help you in this process we have outlined four general topics that can be covered over any number of meetings.

- ✦ Review/discuss hand-out called "Mass Reflection." Our hope is that you will be able to attend one or two Sunday Masses with your candidate and spend some time with them to discuss the questions included in the hand-out.
- ✦ Review the "Life in Christ" hand-out with your candidate and make a plan to meet with them over the next 6 months to complete a short Bible Study. The recommended readings are listed on the handout along with discussion questions.
- ✦ Meet with your candidate to discuss the handout on the gifts/fruits of the Holy Spirit. Help them to identify which gift(s) they are most seeking to develop through Confirmation and encourage them to write a short paragraph on the gift and why they would like to ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen that gift/quality in them.
- ✦ Discuss and guide them in developing an outline that they can refer to when writing a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation. This letter will be written during the 11th grade year as part of the Sponsor Candidate meeting in February. (See "Letter of Intent Hand-out")

Thank you again for your willingness to serve as a sponsor.

May God bless your time together and send his Holy Spirit to be your guide as you assist your candidate in building a strong foundation in Jesus Christ.

Mass Reflection

Confirmant & Sponsor Mass Attendance



Please answer the following questions after attending a mass with your sponsor. If you are unable to attend the mass together at St. Patrick's Church it would be acceptable the two of you to attend mass together at a different Catholic Church. The importance of this exercise is that you and your sponsor are able to share the experience of attending a mass together where you are fully present, listen, try to understand, and participate in the celebration together. *You will not be asked to submit your answers to these questions but you may be asked about them during your candidate interview.*

Your Name: _____

Church(es) attended: _____

Date & Time attended: _____

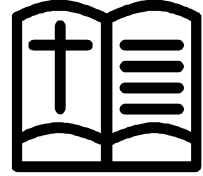
Presider (Priest or Deacon): _____

These questions are meant to be answered by both the Candidate and Sponsor.

1. How did you feel after attending Sunday Mass/Liturgy with your sponsor?
2. Did you understand the Liturgy of the Word (the readings)? What key word or phrase jumped out at you? Did the Homily (sermon) offer insight into what God was saying to you?
3. What does the "real presence" mean to you? How could you be more conscious of the presence of Christ at mass?
4. Think about your experience at mass and your participation level (do you sing and pray out loud, lend an ear to the readings and relate them to your life, understand the homily, share the sign of peace with those around you and partake in Communion. Choose one area to grow in as you approach your confirmation day. Discuss this with your sponsor.
5. In addition to participating at mass as a part of the body of Christ, there is also a chance for you to share your gifts through liturgical ministry. Opportunities available to you prior to confirmation are gift bearer, greeter, usher, music ministry, altar server or reader. Are you involved in any of these ministries? Where might you be able to share?

Life In Christ

Sponsor & Candidate Bible Study



Background

As a disciple of Christ we are called to walk in his footsteps by leading a life of service. Since God marks each of us differently with our gifts, talents, and treasures we each have a unique way of serving others. The challenge lies in recognizing and using our gifts, talents and treasures to serve others. The gifts we are given are brought to full measure when they are shared.

Scripture Lessons

Read and reflect on the following Scripture passages with your sponsor. Then discuss the passages by answering the questions for each of the scripture readings. Be sure to pray before reading the scriptures so that your minds will be opened to the word of God and that the Spirit reveals himself to you as you discern and seek to understand what the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

Read and discuss the questions on the back of this page for each of these readings.

Note: It is intended that this process may take several meetings between the sponsor and candidate. There is no time limit. Simply sit together with the word of God and see where that leads you.

Readings:

- John 7:37-39
- John 14:15-17; 25-27
- Acts 2:1-13
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Romans 12:1-21
- Luke 7:20-49
- Matthew 18:1-35
- Mark 4:1-20

(Discussion Questions on Back)



The Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the gifts that incline (draw) us to the prompting of the Spirit. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are unmerited and are not for our self-glorification but intended for the building up of the body of Christ – the Church.

***Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge,
Counsel, Fortitude, Piety,
Fear of the Lord***

- What is **wisdom**? (the ability to look at reality from God's point of view)
- What is **understanding**? (it enables us reflect on the deeper meaning of our faith)
- What is **knowledge**? (it helps us to gain more complete grasp of our faith and God in the world)
- What is **counsel**? (right judgment – it helps us form our conscience in light of Jesus' teaching)
- What is **fortitude**? (it gives us the strength and courage to do the right thing)
- What is **piety**? (reverence of the Lord and respect for the dignity of others, being humble of heart).
- What is **fear of the Lord**? (awe and wonder at the vastness of God's love and mercy shown to us)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

These are the results from inviting the light of the Holy Spirit to not only burn within us but to guide and inform our decisions. The hardest thing we will ever do is to learn how to discern our selfish desires from our desire to be Christ to others. Through prayer and discipline the process of discernment becomes second nature to us. As we listen the Spirit prompts us to seek the will of God over our own.

***Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity,
Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control***



One of the ways to identify the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to look at the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The reception and practice of spiritual gifts lead to spiritual fruits.

Questions for the candidate to consider:

- Which of these fruits do you find in abundance in your life? What gifts of the Spirit have helped you to attain these spiritual fruits?
- Which of these fruits do you lack or need in your life? What gifts from the Spirit would help you to develop these fruits in your life?

Letter of Intent

Reminders and clarifications

Each Confirmation Candidate is asked to write a letter to the **Bishop of Superior Diocese** to request the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your Candidate's letter should be written using their own words, be succinct, and be no more than one page in length.

We will provide the opportunity at the end of a final Candidate and Sponsor meeting for you to work together on this letter. The following are some guidelines for what you might wish to include in your letter.

Letter should be addressed to:

- "Most Reverend Peter Christensen"

Letter needs to include:

- Expression that the candidate desires to be Confirmed and explain why they have chosen to receive the Sacrament

Letter can also include:

- The fact that the Candidate is a member of St. Patrick's Parish, that your pastor is Fr. Dan Dahlberg, and any additional information regarding your church that helps the Bishop get to know you better.
- Tell the Bishop about their sponsor, why they have chosen you, how you have helped them to mature in their faith life, and in their relationship to Christ and the Church.
- Explain one of the service opportunities that they completed and how it impacted them.
- Talk about a favorite scripture passage and explain why they chose it.
- Talk about a gift/talent that God has given them, and how they are using and/or plan to use that gift within the Christian Community.

When your letter is complete:

Turn it in after the meeting or if your candidate finishes later they may send the letter to the Faith Formation Office **no later than April 1st**. The Bishop's Office is asked that we forward them as a group to the Bishop. You can turn in the letter to the Church Office, the School Office, in an envelope addressed Faith Formation Office in the collection basket, or send it by mail to

St. Patrick Faith Formation
Attn: Confirmation Letter
403 Saint Croix Street
Hudson, WI 54016

The candidate is encouraged to talk with both their parents/guardians and their sponsor for ideas and guidance.