**Confirmation Preparation**

**2018-2019**

**ST. JOHN PAUL II PARISH**

**BAYONNE, NJ**



“…that their hearts may

 be encouraged as they

 are brought together in

love, to have all the

richness of fully assured

understanding, for the

mystery of God, Christ,

in whom are hidden all

 the treasures of wisdom

and knowledge.”

Col 2, 2

 **CONFIRMATION**

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation, whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.  [Catechism of the Catholic Church 1285](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/__P3P.HTM#$1JO)

**Acceptance to be Confirmed:**The pastor is responsible for accepting candidates for Confirmation and vouching for their preparation to the Bishop. Teacher and parent input all play a part in the pastor’s decision to accept the candidate for Confirmation.

The Rite of Acceptance takes place on or around October.

**Precepts of the Church:**These are fundamental for all Catholics and should be the first priority of the family:

· You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation.
· You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
· You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
· You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
· You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

**Classroom:**Candidates must be enrolled in and regularly attend Confirmation classes for both 8th and 9th grade, unless you are a catholic school student, you only have to register and attend the 9th grade class.

**Sponsors:**Candidates must select a sponsor for their 9th-grade year.  Their sponsor may be a godparent if they are close to them, but more importantly, it should be a person they can talk to about their faith and that they will be able to meet with them several times during the year.  The sponsor must be at least 16 years old, confirmed in the Catholic faith, in good standing with the church, and willing to share their time and faith with the candidate - and they cannot be a parent. The sponsor must be present on the day the student receives the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will need the sponsor’s name by the beginning of 9th Grade class.

**Sacrament of Confession:**Candidates will be given an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confession shortly before Confirmation. They are encouraged to receive this sacrament often for their own faith growth along with their required attendance at Sunday Mass. Candidates need to be in the state of grace for the receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Community Service:**Confirmation students should fulfill at least three different service activities, with at least one in support of the Church (e.g., altar server, Fall Festival volunteer, etc.).

**Retreats:** 9th Grade students will attend a confirmation retreat.  Attendance is required.

**What We Need From You!**

**1. BAPTISM RECORD AND COMMUNION DATE**
We need to know if the candidate was baptized at Mt. Carmel, St Michaels or Assumption. If not, we will need a signed and sealed/ official copy of their Baptism Certificate (not a birth certificate) issued by the church of baptism. We will also need your First Communion information.

**2. CONFIRMATION NAME**
Must be chosen prior to start of 9th grade (Confirmation classes)

**3. SAINT REPORT**
Candidates will choose a saint name to be given to them at Confirmation.  They may choose a saint based on their baptismal name or their birthday or choose a patron saint of an interest that they have or a saint they admire. The report should be at least one-page long. They need to write a one-page report on this saint and must say why they have chosen him or her.They can borrow books from the parish office or go online to Catholic websites including:  **www.catholic.net, www.catholicforum.com, www.americancatholic.org**

**5. CANDIDATE  INTERVIEWS**
Each candidate for confirmation must complete an assessment interview . These assessment interviews will take approximately 15 minutes and will take place in the Spring before Confirmation (times TBD).  The purpose of this interview is to ascertain the willingness and the readiness of the candidate to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**All candidates for Confirmation** **must select a Saint name and write a report, at least one page long, on their chosen Saint.**

When selecting a confirmation name, designate the specific person (e, g., Thomas the Apostle, Thomas of Aquinas). The use of your baptismal name, if already after a Saint, can serve to further emphasize the three-fold process of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The name chosen must be a Blessed or canonized Christian saint. A canonized Christian Saint is a man or a woman who has displayed heroic virtue and has been recognized by the Church. During Confirmation preparation time, candidates should research their baptismal name or the new Saint's name they have chosen. After you have selected the Saint you would like to be named after (Choose according to your Gender) type a one page report about the Saint's life.

Include the following topics in your report:

· Who is the saint? (When and where did he or she live, family life, job, etc)
· What have you learned about this Saint through your research?
· Why did you select this Saint to represent your faith journey?
· How is this person a good role model for you to follow as a confirmed Catholic?
· Include the resources from which you obtained your information (web site, book, etc.).

All reports are due in the Faith Formation office by **Sunday, April 29, 2018.,**

Catholic School students you must hand in your report on the first day of ccd class.

There are numerous online resources for learning about the lives of Saints. Here are a few:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/>

[http://www.catholic.org/saints/](http://www.catholic.org/)

[www.ewtn.com/saintsholy](http://www.ewtn.com/saintsholy)

Each of these sites has a searchable index of saints. Some can be viewed by calendar, alphabetically, or by what they are a patron of. Each has a short description of that saint. If you have any questions or need additional resources or suggestions, please ask! stjp2church@gmail.com 201-339-2070

Catechist Janice Wernock

Director Blanca Cisneros

Pastor Rev. Zenon Boczek, SDS

**Choosing a Sponsor**

Please read over the Sponsor Guidelines before filling out the Sponsor Request Form.

Sponsor Guidelines

Each candidate preparing for Confirmation must choose an adult to serve as his/her sponsor. Below are diocesan guidelines to help you consider who might make a good sponsor for you.  Choosing a sponsor from our parish ensures frequent interaction, ability to do service projects and parish events together, and further draws the candidate into our parish life and community.

A Confirmation sponsor is more than a ceremonial role.  Sponsors serve as mentors for the candidate to be confirmed.  During this preparation period, a relationship of trust develops and sustains the young person at a time when so much can seem uncertain.  The sponsor helps the candidate grow in knowledge, attitudes, and practices essential to being a committed (confirmed) member of the Church.  There is no specification regarding the gender of the sponsor, however it is important that the candidate be able to identify with the sponsor in terms of Christian living.

Please read over the guidelines below and take time to consider who might serve in this important role.

Sponsors should be:
-Older than 16 years of age.
-Not be a parent of the candidate.
-Someone who has received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.
-Someone who attends Mass on a regular basis.
-An active member of his/her parish.
-Someone living in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

*Fill out and turn in the Sponsor Request form on November 2018*

**Sponsor Request Form**

Candidate’s Full Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have chosen the name, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_as my Confirmation Name.

**The Sponsor I have chosen is:**

Sponsor’s Full Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor’s Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor’s email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsors phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor’s Parish:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Sponsor’s Age:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please supply a letter stating the sponsor is a practicing Catholic from his/her parish**

**(if other than STJP) and attach to this form.**

**Return form with the proper paperwork by November 2018 to the Catechist or to the Religious Education Office.**