

# **Confirmation Parent Meeting**

**7:00pm on October 25, 2009**

## **Agenda**

### **Welcome & Gather**

### **Prayer**

### **Where Do We Stand?**

- Why do we need to provide copies of Baptismal Information?
- Sponsor Information DUE TONIGHT as ASAP!
- Service Day November 14<sup>th</sup>... WE NEED APPROVED DRIVERS!
- No Confirmation date announced yet.
- Confirmation Retreat scheduled for Saturday February 13, 2010!

### **An Overview of the Sacrament of Confirmation**

### **Confirmation Service Projects**

### **Confirmation Sponsorship**

### **Q&A?**

# **The Morning Offering**



**Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your most *Sacred Heart*, in union with the most *Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world*, for the intentions of all, and in particular for the *Holy Father's intentions*.**

# **St. John's High School RE and Confirmation Process...**

**Active Participation in a Weekly Religious Education Class:** Whether by attending Catholic High School, the weekly St. John's RE Program\*, or study through a recognized Home School setting, each Confirmation Candidate should participate in a course of study in our Catholic faith.

\* St. John's High School RE meets on Sundays from 9:45-11:00am or Wednesdays from 5:15-6:30pm, gathering in the Youth Room, then dividing into class groups for that week's lesson. We'll be covering an overview of "Living the Catholic Faith", a text book from Ave Maria Press.

**Confirmation Immediate Preparation:** All Candidates seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John need to attend our monthly Confirmation Class, which meets on Sunday's from 9:45-11:15am in the Cafeteria on the lower level of the School. These classes usually fall on the fourth Sunday of each month.

## **Specific Confirmation Classes:**

August 30, September 27, October 25, November 22,  
January 24, February 28, March 28.

**Confirmation Sponsors:** Please begin thinking about who you would like to serve as your Confirmation Sponsor. We'll be distributing a form for you to pass on to them at the first Confirmation Class on August 30<sup>th</sup>. These forms are due back to us no later than Sunday October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmation Community Service Expectations:** As a candidate for Confirmation you are asked to participate in ONE of the two Service Days offered this year. Those days will be held on Saturday November 14, 2009 and Saturday March 6, 2010. You are also asked to complete ONE ADDITIONAL project of your choosing, so long as it benefits a person or organization outside of your home.

**Confirmation Retreat:** Saturday February 13, 2010 at St. Bernard's in Cullman

The Confirmation Schedule 2009-2010  
Fourth Sunday's from 9:45-11:15am

**Sunday August 30, 2009**

**Session One: "Confirmed in the Spirit"**

From the Bishop: The Guardian Angel Prayer  
and the Morning Offering

- *Receive Notebooks and Confirmation Journals*
- *Overview of the Questions from the Bishop*
- *Stewardship and Teenagers*
- *Confirmation Service Project Form*

**Sunday September 27, 2009**

**Session Two: "Confirmed in Discipleship"**

From the Bishop: A Sacrament Defined

**Sunday October 25, 2009**

**Session Three: "Confirmed in Faith"**

From the Bishop: Stewardship and Teenagers

*All Baptismal and Confirmation Sponsor Forms  
Due October 25<sup>th</sup>!!*

**November 22, 2009**

**Session Four: "Confirmed in Love"**

From the Bishop: Ten Commandments and Indulgences

**December, 2009**

**Advent Reconciliation Services (TBA)**

**January 24, 2010**

**Session Five: "Confirmed in Holiness"**

From the Bishop: The Gifts & Fruits of the Spirit

**February 13, 2010**

**Confirmation Retreat at St. Bernard in Cullman**

"The Things You Need to Know!"

8:00am – 8:00pm (Leave from and return to St. John's Youth Room)

**Lent, 2010**

**Lenten Reconciliation Services (TBA)**

**February 28, 2010**

**Session Six: "Confirmed in the Church"**

From the Bishop: The Precepts of the Church

**March 28, 2010**

**Session Seven: "Confirmed in Grace & Witness"**

From the Bishop: The Sacrament of Confirmation,  
Its effects, and the Holy Spirit

*Additional Service Project and Form Due March 28!*

**April 11, 2010**

**Session Eight: Confirmation Test Review**

**April 18, 2010**

**Session Nine: Confirmation Test**

**TBA**

**The Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation**

# The Bishop's Questions for Confirmation

## 1. What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

## 2. What are the names of the sacraments?

The seven sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance or Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

## 3. Reflection on the subject of *Teenagers and Stewardship*. (See attached article)

What particular gifts do teen-agers bring to the Church and to the world?  
What is the meaning of stewardship?

## 4. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation in which the bishop or a delegated priest confers Confirmation through the anointing of chrism on the recipient's forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hand, while saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit". (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

## 5. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity who builds up, animates, and sanctifies the Church and her members. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

## 6. What are the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seals and confirms the baptized in union with Christ and calls them to greater participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church. Confirmation invites us into a deeper stewardship relationship to Christ and responsibility in participation in the mission of Christ and His Church. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

## 7. Name the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Knowledge, Courage, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe. (Handing on the Faith).

## 8. Name the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Kindness, Long Suffering, Humility, Faithfulness, Modesty, Contenance and Chastity (Handing on the Faith).

9. Name the Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's 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 your neighbor's goods.

10. Name the commandments (precepts) of the Church.

1. Assist at Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, doing no unnecessary physical work on those days.
2. Confess serious sins at least once a year.
3. Receive holy Communion frequently and, at a minimum, during the Easter season.
4. Fast and abstain on days appointed.
5. Contribute to the support of the Church.
6. Observe the laws of the church concerning marriage and give religious training to one's children by word, example, and use of parish schools or catechetical programs.
7. Join in the missionary spirit and work of the church. (Handing on the Faith).

Know the following prayers: (Handing on the Faith)

Prayer to Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day, be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer you all my prayers, works, joys, and  
sufferings of this day for all the intentions of  
Your most Sacred Heart.

In union with the most Holy Sacrifice of the  
Mass throughout the world, in reparation for  
my sins, for the intentions of all, and in  
particular for the Holy Father's intentions.

(optional at end) I wish to gain all the indulgences  
attached to the prayers I shall say and  
the good works I shall perform this day.

*Please properly catechize the Church's rich theology of Indulgence. The Latin word indulgentia means pardon.*

**Indulgence:** The remission of temporal punishment due to sin, granted to the faithful who recite specified prayers, visit a specified place of pilgrimage, or engage in a specified act of charity; punishment is remitted through the power of the Church and in the mutual exchange of spiritual goods, particularly the merits of Christ and the saints. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults).

The Sacrament of Baptism remits all sin and all punishment due to sin. The effects of the Sacrament of Reconciliation include reconciliation with God and the Church, peace of conscience and spiritual consolation, the remission of eternal punishment due to mortal sin as well as some degree of temporal punishment. Every sin has consequences. It disrupts our communion with God and the Church, weakens our ability to resist temptation, and hurts others. The necessity of healing these consequences, once the sin itself has been forgiven, is called temporal punishment. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other works of charity can take away entirely or diminish this temporal punishment. Because of the fullness of redemption obtained for us by Christ, the Church attaches to certain prayers and actions an *indulgence* or pardon, that is, the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due to sin. Christ, acting through the Church, brings about the healing of the consequences of sin when an individual uses such a prayer or engages in such an action. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)



## **Time, Talent, Treasure — and Teens**

### **It's Never Too Soon to Teach the Three Ts**

BY Joseph Pronechen - NCRegister.com Staff writer

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What difference could you make with \$10?" The eighth-graders at St. Pius X School and those in the parish's faith-formation program in Greensboro, N.C., heard this challenge as each surprised teen was handed a \$10 bill to spend in any way they chose.

Soon, one group pooled its money to buy plants to beautify a home for unwed mothers. One boy invested in a vegetable garden to help supply an urban ministry in town.

Every teen's choice became an example of stewardship in action, proof positive that there's no official starting age for fulfilling God's call to spend time, talent and treasure generously, well and wisely — not only as a way to evangelize and catechize, but also as a good in its own right.

"That particular experiment took place with the children in the confirmation program, which has projects we specifically call stewardship projects," says Tracy Welliver, pastoral associate at St. Pius.

In fact, Bishop Robert Baker of the Diocese of Birmingham, Ala., calls confirmation the sacrament that makes us God's stewards. As head of the former ad hoc committee on stewardship at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he was the prime mover for their 2007 brochure titled "Stewardship and Teenagers." He finds confirmation a prime time to teach and challenge young people about stewardship.

"It's a matter of telling God he owns everything you have, and you can only do that if you are a person of prayer," says Bishop Baker, emphasizing prayer as the central core of stewardship. "You can't be a good steward unless you're empowered by God's grace."

Bishop Baker begins by stressing the necessity of Sunday Mass. "Without that, you can't tell God he owns it all," he explains. "You're saying, 'This is mine.'" By missing Mass, you're telling God the basic proclamation of Easter is not true — the time is all yours.

Then, too, the offering of the day "becomes another dimension of being a good steward," teaches Bishop Baker. We tell God the day is all his by praying the daily Morning Offering and offering to the Sacred Heart of Jesus all our prayers, works, joys and sufferings. (For more on this, go to [BHMDiocese.org](http://BHMDiocese.org) and click on "Confirmation and Stewardship.")

Prayer is the foundation of the three Ts of stewardship — time, talent and treasure. To this many add a fourth T: tradition. The bishops' brochure suggests that sharing tradition might mean inviting a friend to Mass or praying for others.

Focusing on stewardship and youth, St. Pius X has successfully broadened the traditional three Ts with, for example, a stewardship of prayer with different themes. This year, the young people adopted and prayed for an unborn child. Last year, connecting with a state adoption office, each class chose a specific child waiting to be adopted, then prayed every night for that child to find a happy home. After a year, well over 50% of those children had been adopted.

"One can pray with their time," says Welliver, "as a real, practical application of that time."

## **Giving Back**

For time, “Stewardship and Teenagers” also proposes visiting the elderly and sick shut-ins and sharing knowledge with a sibling. For treasure, teens and children can give part of their allowance to help the parish or donate pizza money to raise money for childhood disease prevention.

Winner of the 2009 Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy Memorial Parish Stewardship Award by the International Catholic Stewardship Council, St. Pius X has a yearly work camp for projects like building a ramp to enable a handicapped woman to leave her trailer home.

“The focus is on being a steward,” says Welliver, “not on ‘service.’ Using the term ‘steward,’ you’re zeroing in on having received something from God and now the call is to give that back to God and what profound difference you will make with that gift you have received.”

Few make the connection, but Bishop Baker also sees stewardship as “a preliminary step in the area of vocation discernment because everyone is called to give 100%, whether single, married or a religious,” he says, before adding that there’s a need to get stewardship lessons into high school and confirmation textbooks.

The bishop explains the Holy Spirit’s role in discerning God’s will for a young person’s vocation in *The Questioner’s Prayer* (OSV, 2007): “I like to describe this as the ‘stewardship’ dimension of life. The sacrament of confirmation enables the Holy Spirit to work in a tangible and powerful manner to help young people discern the gifts of time, talent, and treasure they have available to offer to become co-workers with Jesus Christ in building up his Kingdom on earth.”

From Bishop Baker’s experience, teens embrace — and rise to — the challenge.

## **Ownership vs. Stewardship**

Rick Sarkisian, author of *LifeWork: Finding Your Purpose in Life* (LifeWorkPress.com), is of similar mind about the proper understanding of stewardship and forming a “culture of vocations.”

He finds a lot of high schoolers thinking about their future are saying, “Show me the money.”

“I say, ‘Show me God’s call,’” he explains. “What does God want me to do? They must realize we have an unrepeatable purpose only we can fulfill. No one can do what Fred or Suzie is called to do.”

“Stewardship recognizes God has a unique plan for our life,” adds Sarkisian. Our general mission is to share Christ with others, he points out, but our specific personal mission, which is essentially a life work, doesn’t mean just our career or job.

Sarkisian notes that God has entrusted each of us with a unique set of talents, skills, virtues and spiritual gifts, and he wants us to use them in a particular way over our lifetime to bring glory to God in everything we do.

“Stewardship simply means to do that,” he says. “Failing that goes against the grain of stewardship.”

Phil Lenahan, Register “Financial Life” columnist and founder of Veritas Financial Ministries is thrilled to hear that Bishop Baker adds the T for tradition.

“The fourth T is the driving force,” says Lenahan, adding that praying the Rosary, the Morning Offering and the midday Angelus are linked to the three Ts.

Young people need the “steward of Providence” message, he says, pointing out No. 2404 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of Providence, with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all his family.”

In teaching youth about treasure, he shows the necessity for two components — faith and financial literacy. Says Lenahan, “If we don’t connect the two, and without the priorities of the faith, they’re going to be in trouble with money.”

He cites recent major studies showing that 57% of youth are “financially illiterate,” while 87% said “getting rich” was their most important goal in life. Only around 10% cited spiritual matters as a top priority. This, says Lenahan, is a formula for failure.

Like Bishop Baker, Lenahan teaches Catholics to give to God first, yourself second — and then live on the remainder while avoiding debt.

He’s piloting a workbook this fall, tentatively titled “Generation Next,” for high school seniors and college students on how to put together a financial plan that honors God and the responsibility he’s giving them.

“When you get people grounded with the right life principles and they choose to imitate Christ,” says Lenahan, “they’ll realize they’re ultimately responsible to the Lord and what he would have them do. You don’t express ownership in the same way the rest of the culture does.”

So: What difference can a young person make with \$10? It’s never too soon to ask.

*Staff writer Joseph Pronechen is based in Trumbull, Connecticut.*



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Madison, Alabama

# Confirmation Service Project Form

**Confirmation Community Service Expectations:** As a candidate for Confirmation you are asked to participate in ONE of the two Service Days offered this year. Those days will be held on Saturday November 14, 2009 and Saturday March 6, 2010. You are also asked to complete ONE ADDITIONAL project of your choosing, so long as it benefits a person or organization outside of your home. Please fill in the following information AFTER you have completed this additional project. Your project should be completed by, and this form should be turned in no later than **Sunday March 28, 2010.**

**Confirmation Candidate's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Candidate's Sponsor:** \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person, Family or Organization Served: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief explanation of the project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours were spent organizing and performing this service? \_\_\_\_\_

**Using the back of this form, please answer the following questions:**

- Would you please explain the details of the project and the planning that went into its preparation and performance?
- Please read Matthew 25: 35-40. How does your project relate with Jesus' challenge to serve, and how has this project revealed what it means to be a Catholic Christian today?
- What was the most rewarding moment, feeling or outcome of your project, and how does it help in your preparation for Confirmation?
- What was the most challenging part of your project, and how does it help in your preparation for Confirmation?
- Is there anything else you'd like to share that may be beneficial for others who plan to do service projects here at St. John's?



**PARENTS:  
WE NEED AT LEAST  
25 or more DRIVERS!**

Please consider driving by checking  
the volunteer driver box on  
the permission form!



# St. John Youth Ministry Confirmation Service Day

Meet in the YOUTH ROOM Saturday November 14, 2009 8:00am – 1:00pm

As part of our Parish Confirmation Program, St. John Youth Ministry is sponsoring a full morning of community service. The day is designed to expose young people to service opportunities in our area.

Here is a tentative list of service projects that is subject to change based on the need...

- **CASA** - We'll be working for the Care Assurance System for the Aged (CASA) in their Garden in Huntsville and maybe painting some Wheelchair Ramps!
- **WAREHOUSE WORK** - We'll be helping organize materials for the Asbury Thrift Store here in Madison!
- **MINISTRY to the ELDERLY** - We'll be sending a group to the Redstone Village Retirement Community to visit and work with their residents, calling bingo, serving lunch and working in their gardens!

**\*Is this mandatory?** We want to strongly encourage your participation in at least ONE of our Service Days, and remind you that this journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation includes your commitment to serving God's people. **Can't Make It? We're planning another Service Day on March 6, 2010...**

***Please let Greg know of your plans by November 8<sup>th</sup>!***



Please have your parents sign the  
attached permission form and return it  
by Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>!



|

|

[ ] YES I CAN DRIVE! My vehicle can take \_\_\_\_\_ passengers!

**Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama  
Parental/Guardian Consent Form and Liability Waiver**

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cel-Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ I, \_\_\_\_\_ grant permission for my child (name of Child): \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in this parish youth ministry event that requires transportation to a location away from the parish site. This activity will take place under the guidance and direction of parish employees from St. John's Catholic Church, Madison, Alabama. A brief description of the activity follows:

**Date of event/activity:** November 14, 2009

**Type of event/activity:** St. John's Confirmation Service Day

**Destination of event/activity:** Provided the Day of Service

**Individual in charge of and responsible:** Greg Thompson and Confirmation Team

**Estimated time of departure and return:** 8:00am – 1:00pm

**Mode of transportation to and from event:** Volunteer Vehicles

- *I do hereby further give consent for all emergency medical care (including surgery, if deemed necessary and recommended by at least two attending physicians) prescribed by a duly licensed physician for my child in the event of injury or illness to my child during the above named activity. This emergency medical care may be given under whatever conditions are deemed necessary, or whatever conditions may then and there exist, so as to preserve and protect the life, limb, health and well-being of my child.*
- *I do hereby agree to forever indemnify, exonerate, hold harmless and defend the owner and driver of the private motor vehicle, the parish, the pastor, and staff members and all youth ministry personnel, and the Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama, a corporation sole, and their respective successors in office, from all claims, demands, actions, and causes of action arising out of or in any way pertaining to any bodily injury or illness including death, incurred by my child during the course of any said activities, and including emergency medical and/or surgical treatment for my child and whether or not said claim, demand, action or suit is based on, or alleged to be based on, in whole or part, the negligence, wantonness, or other similar conduct of any of the Indemnities.*
- *This Indemnity applies, in all events, to the extent that such an injury, damage, illness, or death to my child is not covered by applicable or enforceable liability insurance available to The Indemnities. I assume all risks and hazards incidental to or attendant with my child's participation in the above named activity, and in each phase of it.*
- *I request that in the event of any medical or other emergency involving my child during the above named event, when neither myself or the child's other parent is readily available to be contacted by phone, that the adult supervisor contact the following person who will have authority to speak for me with respect to the emergency needs of my child.*

**Required**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(YOU MUST FILL OUT THE INFORMATION ON THE BACK AS WELL!)**

## MEDICAL INFORMATION

Family Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Health Plan Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy/Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergic Reactions (medications, foods, plants, insects, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

You should be aware of these special conditions of my child: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last tetanus: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Required*

- My child is taking medication at present. My child will bring all such medications necessary, and such medications will be well labeled. Names of medications and concise directions for seeing that the child takes such medications, including dosage, and frequency of dosage is as follows:

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

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### *Optional*

- No medication of any type, whether prescription or non-prescription may be administered to my child unless the situation is life threatening and emergency treatment is required.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Physical Limitations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **YOUTH SIGNATURE REQUIRED! CODE OF CONDUCT**

- I hold that my child will conduct himself/herself in a proper manner and failure to abide by standard codes of conduct will cause my child to be dismissed from the above named event. I understand that this dismissal will require that I provide and or incur any costs for their transportation home from the event.

**YOUTH Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **SOME SPONSOR EXPECTATIONS**



The role and expectations of a Confirmation Sponsor helps guide the Confirmation Candidate through the following five key areas of faith formation...

**Knowledge of Faith**

**Prayer and Spiritual Life**

**Liturgy and Communal Worship**

**Fellowship and Ministry**

**Witness**

Thank you for being a part of this amazing process, as we prepare as a faith community for the coming of the Holy Spirit!

# **SOME SPONSOR EXPECTATIONS**

1. **Write a personal letter of affirmation** to the candidate for her/his Retreat on February 13, 2010. Mail it to the Church Office ***with the Candidate's name in the lower left corner*** to be received by St. John's no later than February 6th. Please send to 1055 Hughes Rd. Madison, AL 35758... Attention Greg Thompson.
2. **Have at least 3 to 5 meetings/sessions\*** of discussion with your candidate between now and Confirmation. \*Realizing that some Sponsors live outside of the area, these sessions can be done over the phone, via e-mail or online video or IM style chats. *Please try and complete at least one discussion activity from each of the five topics in the manual. There is no need to turn in anything; this is just a suggestion to make the most use of the material provided.*
3. **Together with the candidate decide on a Confirmation name that you will use to present the Candidate for Confirmation.** We will be asking before the celebration, so make sure you've decided ahead of time. We will be printing these names on a name tag for the Bishop to see, so last minute changes are not encouraged!
4. **Attend the Practice** for Confirmation Celebration. This usually occurs the Monday or Tuesday, the week of Confirmation. If the Sponsor lives out of town, a parent can stand in for the Sponsor.
5. **Continue your presence** in the Confirmande's life!