

SACRED HEART AND ST. BERNARD CONFIRMATION CLASS 2009 REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY AND HOLY DAY MASS ATTENDANCE:

The Mass and the Eucharist are the **very center of our Catholic faith**. The obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses is the responsibility of all Catholics. We expect all of our candidates to understand and accept the requirement, which is **based on the third commandment**.

In the United States the Holy Days of Obligation are:

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Easter Sunday

Ascension of the Lord

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Solemnity of all Saints

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Nativity of Our Lord [Christmas Day]

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

There will be a retreat for all candidates before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat is on *Friday May 8th at 5:30pm*, and will end with us all *attending the 5:00pm mass on Saturday May 9th*.

THIS IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CANDIDATES, and they should come to the retreat in comfortable, casual dress but it also must be appropriate for mass.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

Two confirmation interviews will be required for all candidates of Confirmation. The first one will be at the beginning of the year with Fr. Luis for those who are in Sacred Heart Parish and Fr. Loren for St. Bernard church.

The candidate will be **accompanied by at least one of his/her parents**.

This is an **opportunity for both the student and his/her parents to understand the requirements of the program and to ask any questions**.

Students and parents will sign a paper that states that they understand and will fulfill the requirements of the program.

Each interview will be no longer than 15 minutes.

The second interview will occur at the end of the year, in the weeks before Confirmation. The candidates will meet with Fr. Luis or Fr. Loren.

FAITH JOURNAL

Each student must complete a Faith Journal during the year. Each month they will be asked to reflect on their faith in the areas of Worship, Knowledge and Service.

They will be required to buy a journal book and write down their reflections by answering specific questions in these areas and handing them in each month.

The due dates are October 27, November 24, December 15, January 26, February, March 30, April 27, and May 18th. The completed faith journal should be handed in after the confirmation meeting at the end of every month.

If you have questions there is a *"Faith Journal Help Session."* The help session can be used if you need help on that month's Faith Journal. The help session is also an opportunity to complete the previous months' Faith Journal.

If the Faith Journal from the prior month has not been handed in, you will be required to attend the help session. Also, if the Faith Journal that was handed in was incomplete, the candidate will be notified and required to come to the help session.

SPONSORS

Historically, sponsors were those Christians who presented their friends as candidates for Christian Initiation. When Infant Baptism came into practice it was usually the parents who presented their children to the community, godparents being chosen in case the parents could not fulfill their responsibilities. According to the new Code of Canon Law, Baptismal godparents are preferred as Confirmation Sponsors because of the unity of Baptism and Confirmation. This assumes the godparents are practicing the Catholic Faith.

The candidates will be required to write a letter to their sponsor detailing why they chose him or her and what will be expected of them as a sponsor during the upcoming year of preparation.

The sponsor letter is due January, 2009.

The Sponsor must be mature in his/her faith and at least 16 years old: this means that he/she must feel comfortable answering questions the candidates might have and sharing his/her faith.

The sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

A Parent may not be their child's sponsor. All sponsors must have a form signed by their parish priest stating they are a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.

RITE OF ENROLLMENT:

Sunday, February 15th at 10:30 a.m. mass will be the Rite of Enrollment, and sponsors and parents are invited to attend this mass. It is also the blessing for the Sponsors. After the mass there will be a meeting for both sponsors and candidates at the parish center to welcome and talk about their responsibilities as sponsors.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All candidates are required to attend our parish confirmation retreat. It will be held on Friday May 8th from 5:30 pm to Saturday May 9th after the 5:00 pm mass.

THE RETREAT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES.

CONFIRMATION FEE:

Each candidate will pay a fee of \$40.00. This fee will cover the cost of the retreat and other supplies.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:

Baptism is necessary before one can received any other sacrament. Every candidate should know the Church in which they were baptized. All church records are kept at the church of baptism. All candidates who were not baptized at Sacred Heart must submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate by December 30, 2008.

PARENT'S PARTICIPATION

The participation of the parents in the Confirmation program is vital. It is important for you to set the example for your child as he or she takes on the responsibility of the confirmed Catholic.

The example of the **parents' prayer life and their personal relationship with Christ and His church** are the best teaching sons and daughters will ever have.

Although it is the candidates responsibility to complete all requirements, it is the parents' responsibility to assist and support his or her child.

Additionally, we are requesting parent assistance in the following areas;

- Chaperones and Drivers for class trip
- Help with serving dinner and snacks during the Confirmation retreat.
- A parent or parents to help make phone calls to other parents when needed.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

All candidates are required to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during both the season of Advent and Lent.

SAINT'S NAME

A name identifies us and tells others who we are. The candidates are asked to check into the reason for their baptismal name if they are not already aware of the reason.

They may choose a new name as a sign of growth in faith. One may keep the baptismal name to emphasize the fact that confirmation is a sealing of the baptismal commitment.

The candidates must explain their choice and report information about the saint that they have chosen. Each saint is known for particular qualities or virtues. The candidates will explain how, by imitating this saint, he or she can become a better Christian.

There are excellent websites that will assist the candidates to know the different saints:

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/SAINTS/indexsnt.htm>,

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.asp>

<http://www.theworkofgod./saints/>

CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROJECTS

Each candidate is required to complete 20 hours of individual service. All candidates must participate in a group projects. This year one group project will be assisting Betty Chinn ministry and the St. Vincent de Paul Society by feeding the homeless. The candidates will be making sandwiches for *Sandwich Sunday* on the third Sunday of the month. All candidates will meet at 10:15am in the church and attend the 10:30 mass together as a class. After mass we will meet at the parish kitchen and make sandwiches for the homeless.

The other group service project is serving holiday dinners for the homeless. The first one on Monday September 29, and the others will be Thanksgiving Dinner, Easter dinner and Christmas dinner [*see schedule for specific dates*]. For the first service project on Monday September 29 at the St. Vincent kitchen, we will be meeting at 4 p.m. and will finish by 5:30 p.m.

Other service hours that are available include assisting in the liturgy, especially during the Triduum week as well as helping Betty Chinn sort out clothes. Service hours are not considered complete until they are handed in and recorded by Ms. Amber Lee.

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

The candidates are required to write a letter to the Bishop indicating a desire to receive, and reasons for wanting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It should be a statement of future commitment to study the faith and to follow their responsibility as a baptized Christian to proclaim the gospel. Specific guidelines for the letter will be discussed and it is to be written by the first Monday of March.

LENTEN AND EASTER TRIDUUM REQUIREMENTS

All candidates must attend Stations of the Cross on Friday.
 All candidates must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 All candidates should make every effort to participate in the Easter Triduum, which consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil.

This is the holiest time of the year for our church. The services on these days are rich in the traditions of our faith. We will discuss with the candidates how they can fully participate in the Triduum during the class meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

PARISH BULLETIN --- It is important that candidates check the parish bulletin each weekend for posted service hours, reminders of upcoming events, requirement due dates and other announcements.

The bulletins are published online at www.sacredheartweb.org.

E-MAIL : e-mail will be another avenue of communications.

Reminders, service hour and class time will be sent via e-mail.

GRACE PASSES

All of the above activities are required for all candidates of Confirmation. However, there are times when family or other obligations can prevent a candidate from attending a scheduled activity. Therefore, each candidate will be given 2 *grace passes* to be used during the year. *In order to use this pass, a parent must call Fr. Luis prior to the event.*

Once the candidate uses 2 passes, it is expected that he/she will be at every scheduled activity, or make up a session by attending the 'Generations of Faith' gathering.

Grace passes cannot be used for the Confirmation retreat on May 8th and 9th, 2009. *The candidate does not have to use a Grace Pass if he/she is ill.* It is expected, however, that a parent call Fr. Luis in advance to let him know that the candidate will not be at the schedule activity.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSALS AND DATE

The date of Confirmation has not been given to us by the Diocese of Santa Rosa. However, it has usually been at 2 pm on the feast of Pentecost, which this year is May 31st, and Sacred Heart is hosting the event. I will notify you as soon as possible when I received a confirmed date and time. If the bishop can come on the 31st, our Confirmation rehearsal for the candidates will be Friday May 29, at Sacred Heart at 6:00 – 7:15 pm, a day prior to the confirmation date. Sports and recreational activities are not an excused absence from rehearsals.

CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE

Boys:

**Dress slacks
Dress shirt/tie
Dress shoes**

Girls:

**Dress or skirt [any color] of an appropriate length for Church
Dress Shoes
If nail polish is worn, it should be a subdued or pastel color
NO TENNIS /BASKETBALL /SNEAKERS SHOES**

**Sponsors should also be appropriately dressed, since in their role they are an official representative of the church. Men should wear dress shirt, tie and jacket. Women should wear a skirt or dress of appropriate length or a dress pants suit.
NO GUM PLEASE!**