

Confirmation

**ST. BERNARD CHURCH
SACRED HEART CHURCH**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS 2010 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 this requirement, which is **based on the third commandment**.

In the United States our Holy Days of Obligation during the 2009-2010 Confirmation year are:

Dec. 8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dec. 25th Nativity of Our Lord [Christmas Day]

April 4th Easter Sunday

May 13th Ascension of the Lord

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

Canon Law requires that each candidate be **interviewed prior to Confirmation**. The purpose of the interview will be to determine the preparedness of each student for Confirmation. **The interviews will be conducted by your Pastors or Deacons and will likely be conducted during the retreat.**

FAITH JOURNAL

Each student must complete a Faith Journal during the year.

Each class they will be asked to reflect on their faith in the areas discussed that day.

They are required to buy a journal book and bring it to each class. The journals will be checked frequently and will be reviewed with the candidate at the end of the year.

HOMEWORK

The candidate will be issued a book. There will be reading and sometimes homework after each class. The candidate must come to class having done the homework and prepared to participate.

The candidate will also be responsible for memorizing certain prayers of the Church; among them The Lord's Prayer, The Hail Mary, The Gloria, The Credo and The Apostle's Creed. We will work on these during class. The parents are encouraged to say these prayers with their candidates daily (perhaps at dinner or before bed).

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, 2010.

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 14th at 10:30 a.m. mass there will be a Rite of Enrollment which will include a blessing for sponsors. Sponsors and parents are invited to attend this mass.

CONFIRMATION FEE:

A fee of \$50.00 will be charged for each candidate. This fee will be applied to the cost of the retreat and other supplies. Families needing financial assistance should talk to their Pastor. Scholarships may be available. Please make your checks payable to Sacred Heart Church.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES:

Baptism is necessary before one can receive 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 St. Bernard or Sacred Heart Church must submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate by December 30, 2009.

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

Although it is the candidate's responsibility to complete all requirements, it is the parents' responsibility to assist and support their child.

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

- **Chaperones and Drivers for any class trip**
- **Help with serving dinner and snacks during the Confirmation retreat.**

- **At classes when necessary.**
- **PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO SIT IN ON CLASSES**

CLASS DATES Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

October 26	<u>Monday</u>	Class
November 2	<u>Monday</u>	Class
November 9	<u>Monday</u>	Class
November 16	<u>Monday</u>	Class
November 23	<u>No Class</u>	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	<u>Monday</u>	Class
December 7	<u>Monday</u>	Class
December 14	<u>Monday</u>	Class
December 21	<u>No Class</u>	Christmas Break
December 28	<u>No Class</u>	Christmas Break
January 4, 2010	<u>Monday</u>	Class
January 11	<u>Monday</u>	Class
January 18	<u>No Class</u>	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 25	<u>Monday</u>	Class
February 1	<u>Monday</u>	Class
February 8	<u>Monday</u>	Class
February 15	<u>No Class</u>	Presidents Week
February 22	<u>Monday</u>	Class
March 1	<u>Monday</u>	Class
March 8	<u>Monday</u>	Class
March 15	<u>Monday</u>	Class
March 22	<u>Monday</u>	Class
March 29	<u>March</u>	Class
April 5	<u>Monday</u>	Class

April 12	<u>Monday</u>	Class
April 19	<u>No Class</u>	Spring Break
April 26	<u>Monday</u>	Class
May 3	<u>Monday</u>	Class
May 7	<u>Retreat Starts Friday 5:30 P.M to Saturday After 5:00 P.M Mass (not overnight)</u>	
May 14th	<u>Friday eve 6:00</u>	Rehearsal
May 16th	<u>Sunday</u>	Sacrament of Confirmation

**CLASSES TO BE HELD IN THE YOUTH BUILDING AT
SACRED HEART UNLESS OTHERWISE ANNOUNCED**

*******All dates and times subject change**

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

There will be a retreat for all candidates before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat will take place on *Friday May 7th at 5:30PM, and will end with us all attending the 5:PM mass on Saturday May 8th.*

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.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

All candidates are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance during both the season of Advent and Lent. There will also be a time for the Sacrament of Penance during their retreat.

MISSING SACRAMENTS

If your young person is missing the Sacraments of Baptism, 1st confession and/or 1st Communion we will prepare them along the way and celebrate them at the Easter Vigil or at another time as arranged with your Pastor.

CONFIRMATION NAME

A name identifies us and tells others who we are. Candidates may choose a new name at Confirmation as a sign of growth in faith. One may keep their baptismal name, if they choose, to emphasize the fact that confirmation is a sealing of the baptismal commitment.

There are excellent websites that can assist candidates in their research:

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

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

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

SERVICE PROJECT

Each candidate is required to complete 20 hours of individual/group service to the poor and/or vulnerable. All candidates must participate in a group project. Candidates may complete their service by assisting Betty's Homeless Ministry and/or assisting as an aide in Sacred Heart or St. Bernard's CCD classes.

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

**Candidates are encouraged to attend Stations of the Cross on Fridays.
All candidates are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance.**

All candidates should make every effort to participate in the Easter Triduum, which consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil.

COMMUNICATION

E-MAIL : e-mail will be the preferred avenue of communication.

Reminders, service hour projects and class times 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 Simona Keat at 499-5922 prior to the event.*

Once the candidate uses 2 passes, it is expected that he/she will be at every scheduled activity.

Grace passes cannot be used for the Confirmation retreat on May 7th and 8th, 2010. *The candidate does not have to use a Grace Pass if he/she is ill.* It is expected, however, that a parent call Simona in advance to let her know that the candidate will not be at the schedule activity.

CONFIRMATION REHEARSALS AND DATE

Candidates and their sponsors are required to attend the Confirmation rehearsal on May 22, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's Church in Arcata

CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE

Boys: Suit or Sport Coat with

Dress slacks

Dress shirt/tie

Dress shoes

Girls: Dress or skirt [any color] of an appropriate length for

Church

Dress Shoes

**CANDIDATE/PARENT AGREEMENT TO THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE
2010 ST. BERNARD/ SACRED HEART CHURCH
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**

CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I, _____, have read this booklet and am aware of the necessary commitment to attendance and compliance with all of the listed activities and projects noted within it.

I am also aware of the policy concerning “grace passes,” and I hereby pledge to fulfill all these requirements in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2019.

Signature _____

Date _____

PARENT PLEDGE

I, _____, as the parent of Confirmation Candidate _____, have read the booklet and am familiar with all of the projects, sessions and activities listed within it, and hereby agree to support and encourage my son/daughter in fulfilling all requirements and completing all projects listed, so that they may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2010.

Signature _____

Date _____