

2011-2012 High School Confirmation  
St. Monica Parish



**PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS:**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Welcome and know of our parish's prayers for you as you begin preparing to receive this great Sacrament!

The Sacrament of Confirmation is traditionally the third and final Sacrament of Initiation. The Candidate (i.e. to student preparing for Confirmation) has already received the first two: Baptism and First Communion. Often the Sacrament of Confirmation is portrayed as a *Coming of Age* Sacrament and/or a third and final step to becoming *full* members of the Catholic Church. Such an understanding is not entirely accurate. As baptized Catholics, Candidates are already full members of the Catholic Church. Our task in preparing them for Confirmation is to catechize and help them explore what it means to be full members.

Parents, priests, and teachers have largely been responsible for the faith formation in the lives of the Candidates up to this point. Since they are getting older, the Church expects **them** to begin taking responsibility of and *owning* their faith. As the catechists, we are going to do all that we can to help facilitate such a momentous task in order that the Candidate will fully experience the Grace of Confirmation within their daily life.

## EXPECTATIONS:

1. Cost per student: \$20 for the Retreat  
If you require assistance or have questions regarding the cost, please contact Mary Jo Thomas-Day at 253-2193 ext. 4.
2. Class attendance is required  
You are allowed 3 excused absences. If you are not able to make class then prior to its beginning, you must either email Fr. Dustin or Mr. Sullivan or call them at the parish and leave a message.
3. Be on-time  
Tuesday classes begin promptly at 7:00pm. Try to arrive by 6:45pm (if possible) because you will need to get there early enough to check-in, turn-in anything that needs turning in, say hello to friends, etc. Too many tardy arrivals (after 7pm) will result in a homework assignment.
4. Make-up Work  
Because we will not be able to make-up missed classes, you will be expected to turn in a 1-page research paper (1.5 spacing, 12 pt. font, 1" margins) on the topic that was covered in the class(es) you missed. All make-up work is due to either Mr. Sullivan or Fr. Dustin 1 week from the date of the class you missed. Please include the following components within each paper:
  - Give a brief history of the given topic (1 paragraph).
  - Explain the Church's teaching/belief (2-3 paragraphs).
  - How might you integrate what you have learned into your life (1 paragraph)?
5. Class Participation  
Each class has a designated topic, which are subject to change from time to time. Prior to that class, you will need to have thought about how you might answer the questions listed under, *Class Preparation*. You will not be required to write your answer; just simply think about it. When it is time to break up into small groups, those same questions will guide the conversation within your group.
6. Sunday Mass attendance and all Holy Days of Obligation (Nov. 1, Dec. 8, 25)  
Each week you will bring with you to class and turn-in a slip with the following information:
  - Where you went to Mass
  - A two sentence summary or critique of the homily
  - Parent's SignatureIf you miss mass, please briefly explain why and have your parents sign the bottom (indicating that they have read it). If a pattern of missing Mass emerges, Fr. Dustin and/or Mr. Sullivan will ask to meet with you privately in order to discuss ways you might be able to correct that pattern.

## EXPECTATIVAS:

1. Costo por estudiante: \$20 por el Retiro  
Si usted requiere ayuda o tiene preguntas acerca del costo, favor de contactar a Mary Jo Thomas-Day al 253-2193 ext. 4.
2. La asistencia a las clases es un requisito  
Se le permitirá 3 faltas con excusa justa. Si usted no puede seguir con las clases después de haber comenzado, deberá llamar al Padre Dustin o al Señor Sullivan o llame a la oficina y deje un mensaje.
3. Este a tiempo  
Las clases de los martes en la noche comenzaran a las 7:00pm en punto. Trate de llegar a las 6:45pm (si es posible) ya que tendrá que estar a tiempo para registrarlos, entregar cualquier cosa que se deba entregar, saludar a los amigos, etc. Muchas tardanzas (después de las 7:00pm) resultaran en trabajos/tareas extras.
4. Reponer un trabajo/tarea  
Ya que no tendremos la oportunidad de reponer las clases perdidas, es la expectativa de que usted entregue un papel investigativo de 1 hoja (1.5 espacio, 12 pt. letra, 1" margen) en el tópico que fue discutido en la clase(s) que perdió. Este se deberá entregar al Señor Sullivan o al Padre Dustin 1 semana después de la clase que perdió. Por favor de proveer los siguientes componentes en el papel investigativo:
  - De un repaso breve del tópico del cual se habló (1 párrafo).
  - Explique las enseñanzas de la Iglesia /creencias (2-3 párrafos).
  - ¿Cómo integrarías lo que aprendiste en tu vida diaria (1 párrafo)?
5. Participación en Clase  
Cada clase tiene un tópico designado, que de vez en cuando está sujeto a cambios. Antes de cada clase, usted deberá pensar en cómo contestar las preguntas enlistadas como, *preparación para la clase*. No se le pedirá que escriba sus respuestas, simplemente que piense en estas. Cuando sea el momento de dividirnos en pequeños grupos, estas mismas preguntas guiarán la conversación en su grupo.
6. Asistencia a las Misas los Domingos y los Días Santos de Obligación (Nov. 1, Dic. 8, 25)  
Cada semana usted traerá con usted a clase y lo entregara con la siguiente información:
  - Cuando fue a Misa
  - Dos anunciados resumiendo/criticando la homilía
  - Firma de los padres o tutoresSi usted falta a la misa, brevemente explique el por qué y pídale a sus padres que firmen la hoja en la parte de abajo (indicando que la leyeron). Si hay un patrón de faltar a Misa, el Padre Dustin o el Señor Sullivan le pedirán el reunirse con usted en privado para poder platicar de qué manera se podría corregir ese patrón.

7. Confirmation Retreat: Saturday, December 3, 2011

The day will be broken up into two components. The first component will begin in the morning and we will be involved in service work. We will then come back to St. Monica's for lunch, after which the second component will begin. For the remainder of the afternoon will hear a talk on Catholic Social Teaching and then break up into small groups.

8. Confirmation Sponsor

Each student needs to have a Confirmation Sponsor. For more information on this, please see page 9.

9. Confirmation Name

All those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation choose a *Confirmation Name*. For more information on this, please see page 11.

10. Food, snacks, drinks, etc.

Everyone needs to do their fair share in this regard. Since you all should have eaten dinner prior to class, snacks and drinks will be light and hopefully not too much of a hassle – provided everyone does their part. You will not be expected to bring something every week; just on those weeks you are so designated.

11. Private Preparation

It is very important that your preparation to receive the Sacrament in Confirmation not simply be limited to class. Preparation ought to be daily through prayer, perhaps daily Mass, regular use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and self-catechesis. I know that you all live busy lives, but we ask only that you do your best to allow God the opportunity to help you personally prepare yourself to receive this amazing sacramental gift.



7. Retiro de Confirmación: sábado 3 de Diciembre, 2011

El día se dividirá en dos componentes. El primer componente comenzara en la mañana e involucrara trabajo de servicio voluntario. Luego, retornaremos a Santa Monica para el almuerzo, luego el segundo componente comenzara. Por lo que quede del día escucharán una plática acerca de las enseñanzas Sociales de la Iglesia y luego nos dividiremos en grupos pequeños.

8. Esponsores para la Confirmación

Cada estudiante requiere de un esponsor para su Confirmación. Para más información acerca de esto, por favor vea la página 10.

9. Nombre para la Confirmación

Todos los que recibirán el Sacramento de la confirmación escogen *un nombre de Confirmación*. Para más información acerca de esto, vea las paginas 11.

10. Comida, Botanas, Bebidas, etc.

Cada quien deberá apoyar con esto. Ya que cada uno habrá cenado antes de la clase, las bebidas y botanas serán simples y esperamos que no sean muy trabajosas – esperando que cada quien ponga de su parte. No esperamos que usted traiga algo cada semana; solo las semanas que se le designen. Por favor vea el horario adjunto “comidas/bebidas” para más información.

11. Preparación Privada

Es muy importante que su preparación para recibir el Sacramento de la Confirmación no sea solo limitado a las clases. La preparación debe ser diaria por medio de oración, talvez Misa diaria, el uso regular del Sacramento de la Reconciliación, y ser su propio catequista. Reconozco que todos llevan vidas ocupadas, pero le pedimos que haga lo suficiente para permitirle a Dios la oportunidad de ayudarle personalmente en prepararle para recibir este maravilloso regalo sacramental.



**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Tuesday, September 6

Introduction, preliminary questions, design small groups and their meeting places

Tuesday, September 13

Class Topic: Who is God and why should I care when He doesn't always seem to?

Class Preparation: Can you ever remember having a personal experience of God? Was it good/bad? How has your understanding of God developed as you have grown?

Tuesday, September 20

Class Topic: Christian Anthropology: Who am I in relationship to God?

Class Preparation: How would you respond if someone asked you, "Who are you?" What makes you who you are as an individual? How would you eulogize yourself?

Tuesday, September 27

Class Topic: The Church and why we need it: You can't be *spiritual* without being *religious*:

Class Preparation: Who needs who more: Does the Church need *you* more or do *you* need the Church more? How has the Church made you a better human being?

Tuesday, October 4

Class Topic: Scripture and Tradition: Where did Protestantism go wrong?

Class Preparation: What happens to children when they grow up without supervision and guidance?

Tuesday, October 11

Class Topic: Baptism: Why be Catholic?

Class Preparation: Why are you Catholic? Was it your choice? Do you even like being Catholic? If you could do it over again, would you still choose to be Catholic?

Tuesday, October 18

Class Topic: The Eucharist: Are we really *cannibals*?

Class Preparation: What is the Eucharist? Is it apart of your life? Are you apart of it? Do you need it?

Tuesday, October 25

Class Topic: Catholic Mass: The Model of Love

Class Preparation: How do you define *love*? What are some ways in which the Mass might teach to love better?

Tuesday, November 1

**NO CLASS – ALL SAINTS DAY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

Tuesday, November 8

Class Topic: Confirmation: Throw yourself into the burning bush

Class Preparation: Do you want to be Confirmed? Do you even care? How well would you say you are living right now? What needs to change in your life?

Tuesday, November 15

Class Topic: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick: Our need and His gift

Class Preparation: Why do you or why don't you go to Confession on a regular basis? What does it mean to have an *all-merciful* God? Besides physical ailments, from what other kinds of sicknesses does/can a person suffer?

Tuesday, November 22

**NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Tuesday, November 29

Class Topic: Mary and the Saints: Our help, our hope, and our vocation

Class Preparation: What sorts of people inspire you? Who are your heroes? Do you claim a patron Saint (i.e. a Saint whose life you can particularly relate to and whose intercession you heavily rely upon)?

Saturday, December 3

Service Work—Retreat Day

7:30am – 6:30pm

Meet at St. Monica

**\*\*\*\*\*ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED\*\*\*\*\***

Tuesday, December 6

Class Topic: The Liturgical Year: Living in the past, present and future

Class Preparation: What sorts of things do you day-dream about? How do you keep your imagination engaged? What sort of rhythm does your life have (if any)?

Thursday, December 8

**NO CLASS – IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

Tuesday, December 13

Class Topic: Prayer: Prayer – Communicating love in silence

Class Preparation: If Fr. Dustin and Mr. Sullivan asked you to teach a class on prayer, how would you do it? What is prayer? What do you find hard about it? What do you like about it?

Tuesday, December 20

Class Topic: Morality: Our map from mortality to immortality

Class Preparation: Think about when you make decisions. What sorts of things guide your decision making process? In what ways do your good decisions or your bad decisions (i.e. sins) affect the world?

Sunday, December 25

**NO CLASS – BIRTH OF OUR LORD a.k.a. CHRISTMAS (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

Tuesday, December 27

**NO CLASS – CHRISTMAS BREAK**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

Class Topic: Human Sexuality 101: All about the birds and the bees – for Catholics

Class Preparation: What are ways you express love for the people you care about in your life?  
Besides procreation, what is the purpose of sex? Why does the Church teach  
teach that sex outside of marriage is gravely wrong?

Tuesday, January 17

Class Topic: The Catechism: Why you need one

Class Preparation: Do you own a Catechism? If not, why?

Tuesday, January 24

Class Topic: Vocations Panel

Class Preparation: What do you want to do with your life? Do you believe that God wants that  
for you as well? How do you know?

Tuesday, January 31

Class Topic: Hot Topics

Class Preparation: Come to class with some questions regarding those aspects of our Faith or  
Church teaching that you do not understand.

Tuesday, February 7

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal

**\*\*\*ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED\*\*\***

**CLASS FROM 7 – 9PM (CLASS IS 30 MINUTES LONGER!!!!)**

Saturday, February 11

**Confirmation Mass:** 11:00am @ St. Monica Church

Arrive at St. Monica by 10:00 am

-Group picture w/ Bishop Coyne: 10:30am

-Line-up for processional: 10:50am

-Post-Mass: Reception for the newly Confirmed and their families in the Gym

Saturday, February 18

**Confirmation Mass:** 11:00am @ St. Monica Church

Arrive at St. Monica by 10:00 am

Group picture w/ Bishop Coyne: 10:30am

Line-up for processional: 10:50am

Post-Mass: Reception for the newly Confirmed and their families in the Gym

### **GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:**

Each Confirmation Candidate needs to have a *Sponsor*. This should be someone who the Candidate looks up to in the Faith and with whom you relate well. Their purpose is to offer you the personal help that you need in preparing you for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Candidate for Confirmation should allow his/her parents some input regarding the person they ask to sponsor them. However, this is ultimately the Candidate's choice. Before the Candidate chooses a Sponsor, the parents and their child/candidate must ensure the following:

1. A sponsor **MUST** be at least 16 years old
2. A sponsor **MUST** be a Catholic who has received all three Sacraments of Initiation (i.e. Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation).
3. A sponsor **MUST** lead a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith
4. A sponsor **MUST** not be bound by any penalty of the Church
5. A sponsor **MUST** not be the parent of the Confirmation Candidate
6. A sponsor should be available to spend time with the Candidate during the preparation process and to take part in the celebration of the Sacrament
7. A sponsor should be a person with whom the Candidate has a comfortable and ongoing relationship

The Sponsor will need to be present here for rehearsal on **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**. Class on that night will run 30 minutes longer, so it will run from **7:00-9:00pm**. They are invited to be present and participate in 1 of our other Tuesday meetings. However, due to space limitations, they should not be present for any more than 1 class due to space limitations (unless first OK'd by Fr. Dustin or Mr. Sullivan). Sponsors are welcome to participate in our Confirmation Retreat on **Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, but you need to let Fr. Dustin or Mr. Sullivan know by class time on **Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. If we do not hear from you, then we will assume that your Sponsor will not be present.

Sábado 11 de Febrero

**Misa de Confirmación:** Estas a las 11:00am en la Iglesia Santa Monica

Llegue a Santa Monica a las 10:00 am

-Foto de grupo con/ Obispo Coyne: 10:30am

-Fila para la procesión: 10:50am

-Después de la Misa: Recepción para los recién Confirmados y su familia en el Gimnasio

Sábado 18 de Febrero

**Misa de Confirmación:** Estar a las 11:00am en la Iglesia Santa Monica

Llegue a Santa Monica a las 10:00 am

Foto de grupo con/ Obispo Coyne: 10:30am

Fila para la Procesión: 10:50am

Después de la Misa: Recepción con los recién Confirmados y sus familias en el Gimnasio.

### **REQUISITOS PARA ESCOGER UN ESPONSOR PARA LA CONFIRMACION:**

Cada Candidato para la Confirmación necesita tener un *esponsor*. Este deberá ser alguien a quien el Candidato admire su fe y con quien se relacione bien. Su propósito será el ofrecerle a usted la ayuda personal en la preparación para recibir el Sacramento de la Confirmación. Los Candidatos para la Confirmación les deberán permitir a sus padres el poder opinar acerca de la persona que ustedes escojan como esponsor. Sin embargo, la última palabra es del Candidato. Antes de que el Candidato escoja un esponsor, los padres y estudiantes candidatos deberán asegurarse de lo siguiente:

1. Un esponsor **DEBE** por los menos tener 16 años de edad
2. Un esponsor **DEBE** ser un católico que haya recibido los tres Sacramentos de Iniciación. (i.e. Bautismo, Primera Comunión, y Confirmación).
3. Un esponsor **DEBE** vivir una vida en armonía con la fe Católica
4. Un esponsor **DEBE** no estar penado por ninguna penalidad de la Iglesia
5. Un esponsor **DEBE** no ser el padre del Candidato a la Confirmación
6. Un esponsor debe estar disponible para pasar tiempo con el/la Candidato/a durante el proceso de preparación y tomar parte de la celebración del Sacramento
7. Un esponsor debe ser una persona con la cual el Candidato tenga una relación de confianza y duradera

El esponsor deberá estar en el ensayo el día **martes 7 de febrero**. La clase de esa noche durara 30 minutos más, así que será de **7:00-9:00pm**. Ellos están invitados a estar presentes y participar en 1 de nuestras reuniones de los martes. Sin embargo, debido al espacio limitado, no podrán estar presente más de 1 noche/clase (al menos se apruebe por el Padre Dustin o el Señor Sullivan). Los esponsors están invitados a participar en nuestro Retiro de Confirmación el **sábado 3 de diciembre**, pero Debra hacerle saber al Padre Dustin o al Señor Sullivan durante la clase del **martes 4 de Octubre**. Si usted no nos avisa, asumiremos que su esponsor no estará presente.

## **GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME:**

Part of all Confirmation Preparation is choosing a Confirmation name. In doing so, the Church is not asking Candidate to legally rename him/herself. However, the Candidate is being asked to take on another name, which is to say that they are being asked to live a somewhat different identity. Once the Candidate is Confirmed, their soul will be forever changed, just as it was at his/her Baptism. At Confirmation, the Candidate will be changed in a way that makes him/her more open to God and His life within them. So, just as God changed Abraham's name (*c.f.* Genesis 17:5), his wife Sarah's name (*c.f.* Gen. 17:15), and Jacob's name (*c.f.* Gen. 32:23-32) or just as Christ gave Peter his new name (Matt. 16:13-20), so will the Candidate be given a new name of their choosing. Of course, "...of their choosing" does not mean that they can simply choose any name.

The Candidate is limited in their choice of names to the names of recognized Catholic Saints. The purpose of choosing to take on the name of a Saint is so that the Candidate has a permanent link to someone who has gone before them in the faith and can serve as a model of someone who has lived their faith with faithfulness, courage and excellence. The saint whose name the Candidate chooses to adopt should be someone who inspires them to live a life in and for Christ. Ideally, that saint's life does and will continue to affect the Candidate in a deeply personal manner.

The Candidate should take their time in their search for a Saint's name. They ought to do some research into the lives of the saints. We ask that the Candidate not simply pick a saint at random or because they think the Saint has a unique and attractive name. This process should be done with intention and care. In order to aid the Candidate in this, they will need to answer two questions regarding the Saint whose name they have chosen. Those questions can be found on page 9 of this packet. Their answers should be written on that page and turned into Fr. Dustin or Mr. Sullivan by **Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**.



Your (birth) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Confirmation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In one paragraph, please explain how what about this Saint and his/her life inspires you to become a Saint yourself?

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What inspiring aspects of your Saint's life will you try to implement into your own? Please list 3 and how you will practically go about adapting your life to reflect those virtuous aspects of your Saint's life.

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