



S a i n t R o s e o f L i m a C h u r c h

Confirmation 2020: Summons to Discipleship

Dear Confirmation Families,

I am happy to welcome you and your children to our Confirmation preparation process entitled: *Confirmation: Summons to Discipleship*. The goal of the program is to insure that each candidate is well prepared to receive the sacrament by providing opportunities for prayerful discernment and spiritual growth. The candidate must be ready, by his or her own faith conviction, to enter into this sacramental encounter with the Lord. During the Confirmation Mass when the bishop asks our candidates to profess their desire to become more fully initiated into the community of believers, it is our hope that they will be fully prepared to boldly answer, "I do!"

The requirements of this process are comprised of several key areas that include: catechetical sessions, prayer and retreats, stewardship activities, and youth ministry. In addition, over the summer all candidates are required to write a brief reflection explaining why they are asking to be confirmed, and review and sign the Candidate Agreement (parents should also review and sign agreement). They must also choose a sponsor, who must be a fully initiated catholic who is at least sixteen years old. A parent may not serve as their child's sponsor.

The following is provided for your information/attention: Calendar of class dates and required events; Candidate Agreement, Candidate Reflection Letter, and Sponsor Form. Forms can be mailed, dropped off in the Devine Center, emailed, or faxed to 973-379-5356. This information can also be found on the parish website which is www.stroseshorthills.org in the Confirmation page under Sacraments.

Throughout the school year we will communicate primarily through email (emails are sent to the primary family email listed on the parents' profiles in Realm). Please check to ensure that St. Rose group emails do not end up in your spam folder. If you wish for your candidate to receive reminder emails please be sure to include their email on their Realm profile.

In the meantime if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me by email at tricciardi@stroseshorthills.org, or by phone at 973-376-1960, x3503. You may also contact Regina Furlan, our program administrator at teenfaith@stroseshorthills.org, or at ext. 3971. We both look forward to a wonderful year journeying with our candidates for Confirmation.

Sincerely yours In Christ,
Tracy Ricciardi
Director of Adolescent Faith Formation

CC: Fr. John McCrone, Pastor
Regina Furlan



SAINT ROSE OF LIMA PARISH
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2019/20 CALENDAR

September 28/29	Inscription Mass (either Sat. at 5:30 OR Sun. at 11:00)
September 29	Confirmation Kick-Off BBQ/Teen Night
October 27/28	Class #1 (make-up on 11/3)
November 10/11	Class #2 (make-up on 11/17)
November 24/25	Class #3 (make-up on 12/1)
December 8/9	Class #4 (make-up on 12/15)
January 12/13	Class #5 (make-up on 1/19)
January 26/27	Class #6 (make-up on 2/2)
February 9/10	Class #7 (make-up on 2/23)
March 1/2	Class #8 (make-up on 3/8)
April 26	Final Retreat (All day Event)
May 18	Confirmation Rehearsal
May 29	Confirmation Holy Hour/Penance
May 31	Confirmation Mass

**PLEASE NOTE: Sunday classes meet from 10:45AM-12:15PM and
Monday classes meet from 7:30PM-9:00PM.
Make-up classes are held on Sundays from 10-11:30am**



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CANDIDATE AGREEMENT

Candidates for Confirmation are expected to participate fully in the preparation process and to complete all requirements, which include:

- Confirmation orientation
- Two reflection letters (one over summer and one in spring before Confirmation)
- Inscription Mass
- Kick-off Event
- Eight catechetical sessions*
- Final Confirmation retreat in Spring
- Participation in three stewardship activities at least one of which must be parish-based
- Participation in two youth ministry events (usually, but not always, on Sunday evenings)
- Assigned Confirmation rehearsal
- Confirmation Holy Hour/Penance
- Weekly participation in Sunday liturgy

*Candidates who miss a catechetical session must attend the scheduled make-up.

In order to provide a meaningful and engaging experience for all candidates and adult volunteers the use of cell phones and other devices is prohibited during all planned events/activities. Abuse of these policies will result in the removal of the item, and repeated abuse will result in a meeting with the Director of Adolescent Faith Formation. We all expect candidates to dress in a manner appropriate for the occasion, reminded always that we are in a church setting. Short-shorts, ripped jeans, sweats, tank tops or otherwise revealing clothing should not be worn to confirmation/church activities. Your cooperation and support is appreciated.

**WE HAVE READ THE AGREEMENT ABOVE AND AGREE TO COOPERATE
AND ABIDE BY THE POLICIES THEREIN.**

NAME OF CANDIDATE: _____

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please sign and return to the Confirmation office with your candidate letter by September 1

50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078

FAX: 973-379-5356



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Candidate Reflection

The following is intended to serve as an insight into your readiness and willingness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are no right or wrong responses, nor judgements made based on your response. Our goal is only to best serve you during this journey and to help you through and challenges or obstacles you may be experiencing.

Candidate Name: _____

1. Is it your personal desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? _____ yes _____ no

2. Please give an honest and candid explanation for your answer:

3. What do you hope to learn through the preparation process:

4. Can you think of anything that you, your parents, or we as a parish might do to help you grow more fully in the practice of your faith?



Saint Rose of Lima Church
Confirmation: Summons to Discipleship

SPONSOR FORM

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Choosing a Sponsor:

The person must be a full initiated Catholic who is at least 16 years of age. A parent may not serve as their child's sponsor. Consider a person you know who is a role model in the practice of the Catholic Faith and discipleship. We encourage our candidates to choose their sponsor early in the preparation process so that they may be part of their journey. See back of form for more information on the role of the sponsor.

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor email: _____

Address: _____

Relationship to Candidate/Reasons for choosing: _____

Please complete and return as early as possible, and no later than January 1 to:
St. Rose of Lima Church/Confirmation Program
50 Short Hills Avenue – Short Hills, NJ 07078 or Fax to: (973) 379-5356
Email: teenfaith@stroseshorthills.org

ROLE OF SPONSORS

A sponsor can make an enormous difference in the preparation of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important, therefore, that the candidates are encouraged to choose sponsors who are well suited to the role and who will be integral to the preparation process.

The Church's tradition of involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is one of our most ancient approaches to faith formation. In the early centuries, when the catechumenate was the entry point for anyone seeking to become a Christian, the sponsor played an extremely vital role.

The sponsor was a living witness and mentor who represented the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) to the catechumen. The sponsor would, in turn, witness to the community on behalf of the catechumen's readiness for the initiatory sacraments.

The role of a sponsor was not over with the celebration of the sacraments, however. It was seen as a lifetime commitment, a relationship that would last throughout the individual's journey of faith.

In the early Church the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation were always celebrated at one time; therefore, there was never a different sponsor at Baptism and Confirmation. In subsequent centuries, however, with the separation of Confirmation from Baptism, it became more common to have different persons act as sponsor for those two sacraments.

Both the Code of Canon Law (Canon 893.2) and the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation (5) suggest that in view of contemporary pastoral circumstances, it is desirable to have one's baptismal sponsor act as sponsor at Confirmation. While this remains the ideal, it seems much more important that the sponsor chosen be available and involved with the candidate in a significant way, and be able to offer an authentic example of lived Christian faith.

As a bare minimum, the Code of Canon Law specifies that the requirements for acting as a sponsor at Confirmation (Canon 893) are the same as those for godparents at Baptism (Canon 874). Briefly, that canon directs that the person must have completed their sixteenth year, be fully initiated, live a life of faith, not be the parent, and not be bound by any other canonical restrictions.

One of the challenges that might exist occurs when sponsors live at a distance and cannot interact in person with their candidate. However, in this day of instantaneous Internet and cell phone communication, only a little extra effort is required to maintain regular contact between sponsor and candidate. It is important that interaction occurs on a consistent basis and that sponsors are informed. We encourage our candidates to choose their sponsor at the beginning of the preparation process so that they may be a part of their formation.

PICKING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Candidates have the option of choosing a special name for Confirmation but are not required to do so. The Confirmation name is imposed by the Bishop during the Rite of Confirmation. Because of the connection between Baptism and Confirmation, the baptismal name is most appropriate, however candidates may choose another name that has meaning for them.

Please take time to think about your choice of confirmation name. You can go online and research famous saints and how they lived their lives. Some online resources are: www.catholiconline.com, or www.newadvent.com.

Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and honorable tradition. Taking a new name is symbolic of a new stage in life. It follows in the scriptural tradition reflected in the Prophet Isaiah, "I have called you by name (Is 45: 3-4)." In the Hebrew Scriptures, Abram became Abraham, and Jacob became Israel. In the New Testament the tradition continued when Simon was renamed Peter by Jesus (Matthew 16:17), and Saul called Paul (Acts 13:9) by the early Christian community. Since Vatican II, this is no longer a mandatory practice of the Rite of Confirmation. The Church now invites Candidates to reclaim the name they received at Baptism. This follows since Confirmation is, as taught, the fullness of the Sacrament of Baptism.

As you consider the name you choose for Confirmation, use these criteria in your judgment:

- Research the history of your name and any other names you might be considering. Is there someone you were named after? Is there a family history to your name? Are you named after a saint? Pray and let the Holy Spirit guide your research.
- Pick a name that reflects a virtue or value to which you aspire. This may be reflected in the person who has that name (it may be a saint or a relative). You may also choose a name based on a specific patronage (i.e., the patron saint of athletes, musicians, etc.)

Dear Confirmation Candidates,

Below is a check list of all Confirmation Requirements to help you keep track of when you complete each one. It will help also if there is a question about if/when you attended an event or class. We do not need to see this completed form. We offer it only as an aid to your preparation for the sacrament.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Date Completed
Inscription Mass	
Candidate Letter (by Sept. 1 st)	
Candidate Agreement (by Sept 1 st)	
Confirmation Kick Off Event	
Class #1	
Class #2	
Class #3	
Class #4	
Class #5	
Class #6	
Class #7	
Class #8	
Confirmation Name Form (by April 1 st)	
Sponsor Form (by January 1 st)	
Stewardships Activities (3 are required and at least one must be parish-based) Include name of activity	1. 2. 3.
St. Rose Youth Ministry (at least 2, usually on Sunday evenings)	1. 2.
Confirmation Retreat, Sat. April 26 th 9:00 – 5:00	
Holy Hour May 29 th	
Confirmation Rehearsal May 18 th	