

## St. Ambrose Confirmation Preparation

### A Brief Explanation of Confirmation

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation does not mean that one is “choosing to be Catholic”. We become Catholic through the Sacrament of Baptism. Additionally, this sacrament is not a “graduation” from Religious Education. On the contrary, through this sacrament, we are commanded by Christ to “go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” It is a transition of our faith – from having a passive faith to having an *active* faith. Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit, his actions, his gifts, and his biddings, in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of the Confirmation Candidates. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* Paragraph #1309)

### Parents’ Duties & Responsibilities

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Parents have a grave responsibility to give a good example to their children. Through the grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* Paragraph #2223, #2225, and #2226, respectively, on the role of the parent).

The newly confirmed are expected to continue their religious studies by finishing the remainder of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. Many students are told that once they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation they no longer are required to attend Religious Education classes. .

As a parent, you have *the primary role* in the sacramental preparation process for your child. You will help your child grow in the faith as you prepare him/her for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Your attendance at Sunday Mass is vital.** Your interest, example, witness, and prayers make a difference in your child’s decision to receive the Sacrament.

- Prepare your child for the decision to be confirmed through instruction, example, and prayer.
- Turn in the forms found on the left side of the folder by the due date on label.
- Assist your child in preparing the requirements found on the right side of the folder. These must be completed by due date on the label.

### Confirmation Candidates’ Duties & Responsibilities

“A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in a state of grace, have the intention of receiving the Sacrament (of Confirmation), and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial (Church) community and in temporal affairs.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* Paragraph, #1319, on the responsibilities of the Candidate for Confirmation)

Confirmation is necessary for the perfection of Baptismal grace. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* Paragraph, #1285)

The Confirmed are expected to worship God by taking part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, to receive the Sacrament of Confession as often as needed and to receive the Eucharist as often as possible. A confirmed member of the Church is expected to strengthen and support the Body of Christ, the Church, by prayers and good works.

## **Only practicing Catholics in a state of grace should receive the sacrament of Confirmation.**

“Practicing” includes that you fulfill the obligation to go to Mass each Sunday.

As a Confirmation Candidate, you can begin to take ownership of your faith life with the help of your parents, family, and church. The most important thing you can begin to do is to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in these months leading up to your Confirmation and for the gifts you would like Him to bestow on you which you will use for the rest of your life and for the service of the Church and the world. .

- Pray every day especially for your Confirmation
- Read your Bible. If you do not have a personal Bible, please ask your parents or grandparents to take you to a Catholic shop or bookstore and pick one out! Choose the one you will actually read.
- Continue to learn about your faith outside of school or Religious Education; especially with your Sponsor.
- Turn in the forms and assignments in on time This includes choosing a Confirmation sponsor and patron saint! Ask your parents to help you choose wisely. It is recommended that, if possible, one of the Baptismal sponsors be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective.

### **Save the Date-Mandatory**

#### ➤ **Confirmation Examination (TBA) & Confirmation Interviews (TBA)**

The Confirmation exam will take place in class. The interviews will be scheduled with the priests of the parish, teachers, or the Director of Religious Education. Both will take place a few weeks before Confirmation. The Candidate is expected to know the basic tenets of the Faith; understand the sacrament of Confirmation; and some essential prayers. The interview will also provide insight on the seriousness of the Candidate’s decision to be confirmed. Please use the **Study Guide** included in the folder to prepare for it.

#### ➤ **Confirmation Retreat (TBA)**

The Confirmation Retreat will be an all-day retreat. Parent Volunteers will be needed. This is a mandatory retreat. Sports games which coincide with the retreat will not be accepted as an excuse to miss this special day.

#### ➤ **Confirmation Rehearsal (TBA)**

The Confirmation Rehearsal will be at **7:00 pm** (candidates & sponsors meet in the St. Ambrose School Gym). Confessions will follow the Rehearsal. It is **required** of candidates and sponsors. Another responsible adult may take the place of the sponsor at the rehearsal if the sponsor cannot be present.

#### ➤ **Confirmation Mass (TBA)**

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be **7:30 pm** (candidates & sponsors meet in the St. Ambrose School Gym at 7:00 pm) with a **reception** to follow in the St. Ambrose Parish Center. All are welcome!

**What to Wear:** Confirmation candidates will wear Confirmation robes with appropriate attire underneath. Boys should wear dress pants, dress shoes, shirts, and ties. Girls should wear modest dresses, or skirts or dress slacks with blouses, and dress shoes. Jewelry and makeup should be tasteful and kept to a minimum. The Candidates should comb their hair such that it does not fall on their foreheads. All Confirmandi are to wear Confirmation robes during the Mass, the reception, and the taking of photographs before and after the Mass.