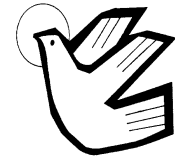


ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS



1. CLASSES

Students are required to attend all Confirmation classes held on Wednesday evenings. If a student needs to miss a class for a serious reason they must receive permission from Rachel Mark (692-8309). All missed classes will be made up with a one page written paper on the topic that was covered during the absence. The texts used are “*The Catholic Faith Handbook*” by St. Mary’s Press, and “*Christ Our Life: Confirmed in the Spirit*” by Loyola Press. A Confirmation test will be given to all candidates toward the end of the year. It is also required that all Confirmed students complete their full junior year of Religious Education after Confirmation from September 2010-May of 2011.

2. MEETING WITH YOUR SPONSOR

Students must choose a Confirmation Sponsor and turn in the Sponsor Information sheet by January 13, 2010. Candidates should meet with their sponsor on a monthly basis to discuss their faith and spiritual growth.

3. CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Christian service takes place outside of class. We ask that you give back (**at least 20 hours**) to the Lord in Christian service as a pattern for Christian living. Families are strongly encouraged to do service together (What a great witness to your own family, the parish and the entire community!) Students are asked to keep track of their own service hours and write up a **SERVICE REPORT** to be turned in at the Confirmation Interview.

4. SCRIPTURE / HOMILY REFLECTIONS

Confirmation candidates are required to submit *five (5) written reflections from five different Sunday liturgies in their home parish*. The reflections are brief summaries of the scripture readings, as well as, Father’s homily and how they can be applied to your daily life. Forms for the written reflections can be found in the “Youth Forms” rack in the gathering space of St. Thomas More or on the office counter at the Newman Center. The form must be signed or initialed by the priest celebrating the Mass that day. Each time a reflection is complete it is given to the Religious Education teacher on the following Wednesday evening. **All homily reflections are to be completed by April 7, 2010.**

5. CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All Confirmation candidates are required to attend at least one retreat before Confirmation. Retreat options are listed on the retreat page. If you choose to attend another retreat besides those listed, you must clear this with Rachel Mark.

6. CONFIRMATION INTERVIEW

The STUDENTS who plan to be Confirmed will be interviewed by a parish staff member to determine the readiness for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are welcome at this interview. Interviews are typically held on the day of the Opening Mass for the 2010 Religious Education year. (September 2010)

7. CONFIRMATION DAY!!

The **TENTATIVE** day for Confirmation is a Sunday afternoon in October 2010. Rehearsal is at 10:00 am on the day of Confirmation. The Confirmation Mass will most likely be at 1:30 or 2:00. The date and time will be announced in the spring, once confirmed with the Bishop.

AN EXPLANATION OF THE CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

“Why do we do them?”

This process of preparation for Confirmation is common throughout the country and in our diocese. The Confirmation Requirements basically consists of:

- Class Attendance
- Meeting with your Confirmation Sponsor
- Service to Others
- Mass Attendance & 5 Scripture Reflections
- A Retreat Experience



Class Attendance: Regular attendance is important because it is an opportunity for ongoing faith formation in the lives of our young people. Through sincere participation in this process many students have their first real conversion of heart and personal ownership of their growing faith life...they start to really “get it”. Also, we find that around the junior year students start to take things more seriously and start to become more grounded in the essentials of our Catholic faith, they have greater potential to integrate it, and to defend it when questioned and explain it when asked.

Meeting with your Confirmation Sponsor: Students choose a Confirmation Sponsor who is a good mentor and model of the Catholic faith for them. Students meet with their sponsor on a monthly basis as an opportunity to discuss the Confirmation formation process, answer questions, and discuss how faith applies to their daily life.

Service to Others: By virtue of our Baptism, and affirmed in the sacrament of Confirmation, we are called to live a life of service. Our faith comes alive by the works we do for the least of our sisters and brothers. A life of service therefore is essential to the life of discipleship that we are called to live out through the sacrament of Confirmation. We do not do service to “get confirmed”. We do service because we are Catholic Christians...and to show that we are ready and willing to live the life of a fully initiated Catholic Christian. Service IS a sacrifice of ourselves and our time...it is a challenge to reflect on what our priorities are, but we do it because we believe it is essential to whom we are as true followers of Christ and hopefully it becomes part of the fabric of who we are as persons!

Mass Attendance & Scripture Reflections: Students are highly encouraged to make Sunday Mass the central aspect of their Confirmation Preparation. “The Liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed.” God knew how important it would be for people to gather as community, so he made keeping the Lord’s Day holy a commandment. We hope our young people learn that to celebrate the Eucharist in community is to be held above all other things like our busy-ness or sports. It is in the Eucharist that we meet our Lord face to face and share an intimate union with Him by receiving His Real Presence, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in Holy Communion. Our participation in the Mass strengthens us and helps us to grow in the Christian life.

We ask for scripture / homily reflections because it is up to us to apply our Mass experience to daily living. So, there is an exercise in listening, reflecting and applying the Word of God in their life.

A Retreat Experience: Retreats are a vital part of any well-rounded faith development program. They address a teen’s need for reflection time in their busy lives and they are a chance to “go deeper” and experience a significant faith event in their lives. It’s a time where they listen to short witness talks (usually by people closer to their age) and they have the opportunity to share their own thoughts, beliefs, questions and struggles...and hopefully develop a better understanding of themselves and their relationship with God. Unfortunately, many teenagers don’t take the voluntary opportunity to make a retreat on their own and it has proven to be such a growth filled experience in many cases that we ask that they make at least one mini-retreat during their formational years with us.

In the end...the basic elements of the Confirmation program are really just the basics of what each of us is called to live in our daily Christian lives. For some students this process has little effect and for others it has a deep effect, which we find very evident in our Confirmation interviews. A lot has to do with each young person’s own personal response and openness to embracing the opportunities set before them. We strongly believe that it would be pastorally harmful to our teenagers if we did not offer them these important opportunities to grow personally and spiritually at this stage of their spiritual development.



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

1700 8th Street South ♦ Brookings, SD 57006 ♦ 605-692-4361 ♦ Rachel's office 605-692-8309

REQUIRED BAPTISMAL INFORMATION FOR CONFIRMATION

(Return to Rachel Mark by January 13, 2009)

Please fill out this form in full. This detailed information is used for parish records. Your accuracy saves us follow-up calls. We need a copy of each student's **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE** if they were NOT baptized at St. Thomas More. If your child WAS baptized at St. Thomas More you only need to turn in this form.

Please Print Clearly

NAME OF STUDENT _____ **Age** _____
First (full) Middle Last

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR'S NAME:

First (full) Middle Last

Sponsor Requirements:

***Not a parent**

***Must be a practicing Catholic**

***Has been Confirmed**

***At least 16 years of age**

Student's Date of Birth _____ **Place of Birth** _____

Date of Baptism _____

Place of Baptism: Name of Parish _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parents: Father's full name _____

Mother's full *maiden* name _____

Choosing a Confirmation Name

One of the favorite aspects of preparing for Confirmation is the choosing of a Confirmation name. In this custom, the one preparing for Confirmation takes the name of a person who has officially been declared a saint, blessed, or venerable or who is one of the faithful people from the Bible. One may also choose to be confirmed under his or her own name given at Baptism (you are still required to complete the report on the saint you were named after). In Confirmation, the bishop uses this name, saying “*(name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*”

HOW DO I CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION NAME?

1. Life-time saint companions.

You are not simply choosing a name you like, but you are asking a saint to be your friend and companion for the rest of your life. We call these life-time saint companions “patron saints.” Patrons help us live as Christians both through their praying for us (intercession) and their good example (witness).

2. Read stories about the saints.

Take time to read the lives of the saints. There are many different books on saints and we have placed a few of these resources in your religious education classroom. The internet also has many different websites on the saints. One place to start is <http://saints.sqpn.com/> This site provides a list by topic (everything you can imagine) and a list by name AND <http://www.catholic.org/saints/calendar> provides a list by date.

You might start your reading with the saint from whom you received your baptismal name or with a saint that has similar interests. Sometimes patrons are chosen because of the day their feast day falls on, e.g. if your birthday is on Sept. 4, you might choose St. Rose of Viterbo. Sometimes patrons might be chosen because of family ties, e.g., grandpa’s name is Mark, so you choose St. Mark. There are many different starting points for choosing a particular saint. Ultimately, the patron chosen should be someone that you want to imitate in their love for Christ and others.

3. Choose a saint.

After researching, pick a saint and complete the Confirmation Name Report Form and give it to your catechist.

4. Get to know your patron saint.

You should be able to explain who the saint is, how they were a faithful disciple and witness of Jesus Christ, and what you hope to imitate in your own life as a disciple and witness.

CONFIRMATION NAME REPORT FORM

(Due Feb 10, 2010)

DIRECTIONS: After finding a saint that inspires your faith, complete the form and give it to your catechist

What saint have you chosen to be your patron? _____

When is their feast day? _____

Where was the saint born? _____

How old was the saint when they died? _____

What did you find out about their family? _____

Name two ways that the saint was a disciple and witness of Jesus Christ: _____

Why did you choose this saint to be your companion? _____

PLEASE PRINT EACH NAME IN FULL:

Your First Name: _____

Your Middle Name: _____

Your Last Name: _____

Your Confirmation Name as you want the Bishop to proclaim it:

Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet

(Return to Rachel Mark by January 13, 2010)

Student's Name: _____

For Confirmation you will be required to have a sponsor – someone who will guide you and share the story of faith with you. Usually, the best person to be your sponsor is one of your baptismal godparents. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. However, some of you may no longer be close to your godparents...they maybe live too far away...or they may no longer practice their faith. In cases such as these you will need to choose a new sponsor. This means you can choose a relative, friend or someone from the parish as your sponsor. Pray about it, and when you think you have the right person, ask him or her to help you grow in faith by being your sponsor!

Sponsor requirements:

- Not a parent
- A Confirmed Catholic actively practicing & living their faith
- At least 16 years old
- Be someone who you can talk with regularly about your faith & Confirmation process

Best if your sponsor is:

- One of your Baptismal Godparents

1. After discussion with my parents, thinking and praying about it, I have asked _____
_____ to be my Confirmation Sponsor.

2. My reason for asking him / her is _____

3. I see this person living the Catholic Faith in the following ways:

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail : _____

(give this to your sponsor)

YOUR ROLE AS A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

If you have been asked to be a Confirmation sponsor, *Congratulations!* This person sees in you a profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about them and their faith.

The criteria the students use for selecting a sponsor includes: someone who is a practicing, faith-filled, adult Catholic; someone who is able to relate to a teenager; someone the candidate is comfortable with; someone who is able to share their own faith experiences; someone who is a good listener and can be a friend for the faith journey that the candidate will be undertaking in the coming months. As you see, the sponsor is more than someone they want to honor or flatter. This is a serious decision on their part, and the sponsor plays a very important role in their preparation.

Before agreeing to be a sponsor we would like you to know what your involvement would include.

January 13, 2010	Return Confirmation Sponsor's Covenant Form
February 7th or 8th, 2010	Attend one meeting to learn about our program (you will receive a letter regarding time and place)
February 2010-September, 2010	Make monthly contact by phone, mail, or in person (Information for discussion will be provided at Feb. mtg.)
October 2010	Sacrament of Confirmation Liturgy (Confirmation at St. Thomas More is generally held on a Sunday in October.)

If you have any questions or concerns about being a sponsor, about the meeting or program, please feel free to call me at 692-8309 or email me at: rachel@stmbrookings.org

Rachel Mark
Confirmation Director

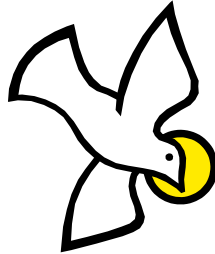
Suggested reading on Confirmation and the role of the sponsor:

Articles from Fr. Thomas Richstatter, O.F.M. and others at AmericanCatholic.org
www.americancatholic.org/features/Sacraments/Confirmation.asp

Article by Archbishop John Vlazny in the Catholic Sentinel:
www.sentinel.org/node/8821

On Confirmation and the Confirmation liturgy:
www.fisheaters.com/confirmation.html

**St. Thomas More Church
Confirmation Sponsor's Covenant**



Confirmation Candidate's Name: _____

I, _____, a fully initiated Roman Catholic
(sponsor's name)
make the following agreement:

I will participate regularly in the Sacraments of the church.

I will pray regularly for my candidate.

I will visit with my candidate as a spiritual witness, guide, and companion on a monthly basis.

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

Parish Address: _____

For your pastor: "I testify that this sponsor is an active member of our parish and is able to take on the responsibilities of a Confirmation Sponsor."

Pastor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return by January 13, 2010 to:

Rachel Mark, St. Thomas More Church, 1700 8th St. South, Brookings, SD 57006

Suggested Christian Service Activities

for Confirmation Candidates

At least 10 hours should be in service to the Church.

Serve St. Thomas More Church...

Altar Server – Serve at Daily or Weekend Masses – contact Sr. Marlene

Religious Education Aide

Help out in the classroom with the younger children on Wednesdays. *Contact Rachel or Deb Gilk*

Teach Preschool Vacation Bible School & Totus Tuus

Volunteer to teach 3, 4, or 5 year olds during their VBS in the summer or help the Totus Tuus team during the Elementary sessions. *Contact Deb Gilk or Joanna Hageman*

Babysitting

Baby-sit for free for someone who cannot afford to pay for a sitter or for a single parent who needs a day out. Volunteer to babysit in the church nursery or during choir practice. *Contact Rachel or LeeAnn Meyer*

Assist in the Activity Center

Help supervise and work with younger students in the Activity Center on Wednesday nights. Other options are helping with homework and snack time in the social hall, or with craft time. *Contact Rachel*

Food & Fellowship suppers

Help out with the Wednesday night suppers...serving, cleaning up, etc. *Contact Rachel*

Drama Group

Be involved in dramas during the year...such as Living Stations of the cross. *Contact Rachel*
Or help with the children's Gospel skits during the year. *Contact Deb Gilk*

Church Choir

Join a church choir and share your gift of music with us. *Contact LeeAnn Meyer*

Church Chores

Help with some things that need to be done around the church...such as dusting the pews, organizing, setting up classrooms in the summer, cleaning RE supplies in the spring, and outside building & grounds work. *Contact Rachel or Deb Gilk*

Youth Council

Help plan and implement youth activities for the year. *Contact Phillip*

Lock-In's

Help plan and work an overnight Lock-in for middle school students. *Contact Phillip*

Church Environment

Help prepare the church environment for Christmas, Lent and Easter seasons. *Contact Rachel*

Parish Picnic

Help with root beer floats, at the inflatable games, or yard relays at the picnic. *Contact Phillip*

Coffee & Rolls Sunday mornings

The time you are scheduled to help with coffee and rolls may count towards your service hours

Contact Rachel

Serve the Brookings community...

Mentoring

Offer to tutor a younger student in Jr. High or the Elementary school. *Contact the school*

Volunteer at the Library

Ask what kinds of service opportunities are available. *Contact the library - 692-9407*

Serve at a Soup Kitchen

Help serve food and fellowship to the poor of our communities, such as the Harvest Table. *Contact Vonda Kirkham for Harvest Table - 692-4345*

Helping Hands Christmas-Project Joy (formerly known as the Angel Tree)

Volunteer to help set up the store, help collect donations or do some shopping.
Contact Dawna Kuck - 690-2659

Habitat for Humanity

Help build homes for low-income families at a building site or at warehouses, organizing materials, moving furniture, etc. *Contact Rachel*

Visit the Lonely

Visit the elderly residents in the nursing or assisted-living homes. They love to see youthful smiling faces!
Contact Brookview Manor - 696-7710 or United Retirement Center - 692-5351

Hospital Volunteer

Ask what kinds of service opportunities are available. *Contact the hospital - 696-9000*

Help the Elderly

Do errands for shut-ins, help them do their Christmas cards or shovel their sidewalks, etc.

Summer Service Trip

Participate in our summer service trip to the Twin Cities & St. Cloud. *Contact Phillip or Rachel*

Fundraising/Service opportunities...

Helping with these events can count as service hours OR to help pay for your retreat/trip. *Contact Phillip*

- Middle School Dance (Plan, advertise, set-up, DJ, clean-up, etc)
- Mother's Day Rose Sale (Help arrange roses and sell arrangements after the Masses)
- Fish Fry (Prepare, serve, clean-up with the Knights of Columbus)

Be Creative!

Any other ideas should be ok'd in advance by Rachel

CONFIRMATION



CHRISTIAN SERVICE REPORT

Bring this form to your interview in September 2010.
Write a short paragraph in response to each question.

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Signature _____

What kind of service project(s) did you participate in and how much time did you give to each one (be specific)?

What was most beneficial or rewarding about your service experience?

Why do you think the church asks you to participate in service to others as part of your Confirmation preparation process?

NAME: _____

Read scriptures in advance: www.usccb.org (click on Readings on top)

Read Fr. Rod's homily in advance: www.stthomasbrookings.parishesonline.com (click on Homily on left)

Candidate's Name _____

Date of Liturgy _____ Reflection Number 1 2 3 4 5

(Candidates must complete five reflections by April 7, 2010)

SUMMARY of either the Old Testament or New Testament Reading:

SUMMARY OF GOSPEL

SUMMARY OF HOMILY

APPLICATION TO MY DAILY LIVING

The Priest for this day's Mass must sign this form after the Mass on which you intend to base your reflection.
It must be turned in to your Religious Education teacher the following Wednesday evening.

Priest's Initials/Signature _____ Date _____

Catechist's Signature _____ Date _____

An Explanation...



Scripture / Homily Reflections Confirmation Preparation Requisite

*"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
John's Gospel 1:1*

The Catholic Mass consists of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Jesus is God's Word (as you can deduce from the Gospel quote above). So Jesus nourishes us through all of the Mass.

In the first half, we hear Jesus in the Word of the Scriptures (readings) and the Homily. Then it is up to us to apply it to daily living. So, there is an exercise in listening, reflecting and applying the Word of God in your life. Therefore, we are asking Candidates for Confirmation to submit written reflections from five different Sunday liturgies in their home parish = Candidates from St. Thomas More parish must base their reflections on the liturgies at St. Thomas More. Candidates from St. Pius XII Newman Center must base their reflections on the liturgies at St. Pius XII.

These written reflections are to be a brief summary of one of the first two readings and also the Gospel, as well as, Fr. Farke's or Fr. Dickensens's homily. Then apply what you heard or learned from the Scripture and homily to your daily living. The five reflections are based on the weekend liturgies (or a Holy Day can count, too) and must be completed by **April 7, 2010**.

****Forms for the written reflections will be found in the "YOUTH FORMS" rack in the gathering space of St. Thomas More Church or on the office counter at the Newman Center.** The form must be signed or initialed by the priest celebrating the Mass that day. Each time a reflection is completed it is given to the Religious Education teacher on the following Wednesday evening.

Make your life easier!

Read the Sunday scriptures in advance on the U.S. Bishop's website: www.usccb.org
Click on the tab that says "Readings" and select the date you want. You can even print them out, bring them to Mass and read along! You can also read Fr. Rod Farke's homilies in advance at: www.stthomasbrookings.parishesonline.com Click on the 'Homily' link on the left side.

Whew... Any questions? Ask a teacher...Rachel Mark...or one of the priests.

(Turn this sheet over to see an example of the form.)



Confirmation Retreat Information

All Confirmation candidates are required to make a retreat before Confirmation. We have a variety of retreat opportunities listed below. If you choose a different retreat not listed here, please let Rachel know which retreat you are attending.

Name: Totus Tuus

Place: St. Thomas More Church

Dates: Jul 25-29, 2010 (evenings only)

Cost: \$15

The mission of Totus Tuus is to inspire in young people a true longing for holiness, a deep desire for conversion, and personal renewal. We strive to help young people to understand their Catholic faith through catechesis, so that they may live their faith in today's world. We do this in such a way that it is fun and exciting. The program is run by college-aged students and seminarians, who are trained and put into teams of four to go into parishes for a week. There they put on a "parish mission" for young people. With joy and honor, Totus Tuus serves the youth and shares with them the blessings that God has given them.

Name: SEARCH for Christian Maturity

More information can be found at www.search4christianmaturity.com

Place: Roncalli High School, Aberdeen

Dates: Jan 8-10, 2010 or Mar 26-28, 2010

Place: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Sioux Falls

Dates: Feb 19-21, 2010 or Jun 4-6, 2010

Cost: \$40 early bird (at least a month before) or \$60 regular price (due 3 weeks before retreat)

SEARCH for Christian Maturity is a Roman Catholic oriented retreat program. Teens and college students lead the retreat, which consists of talks, skits, music, and receiving the sacraments of the church. There is a student director who leads the weekend with the assistance of young adults and adult coordinators who have made a SEARCH. A priest also serves as Spiritual Director on the weekend.

Name: Discipleship Camp

Place: Broom Tree Youth & Family Camp

Dates: Jul 15-18, 2010

Cost: \$350

Join other high school students for 4 days of faith and fun. During the day, you will hear talks to help you grow in your faith, bond with a small group of other teens, compete in all-camp Olympic games, have the chance to go to Mass, Confession, and Adoration, and meet lots of new friends.

Name: Steubenville Youth Conference

More information can be found at www.franciscanyouth.com

Place: Steubenville, OH

Dates: Jun 17-21, 2010

Cost: About \$400

OR

Place: Twin Cities

Dates: Jul 30-Aug 2, 2010

Cost: About \$200

The conferences combine awesome talks, incredible music, praise and worship, time for prayer and fellowship,

entertainment, and anointed liturgies. Basically, it's a weekend to get rocked by God, to get serious about life in Christ and His Church, and to learn the truth of the Gospel.

Name: Catholic Heart Workcamp

More information can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com

Place: Twin Cities

Dates: Jun 13-19, 2010

Cost: Before Dec 31-\$305, before Feb 28-\$320, after Feb 28-\$335

There is both a Spiritual and Service element to this program, so participation in CHWC will cover ALL of your Service and Retreat requirements:

You will share the love of Jesus and serve the neglected, brokenhearted and marginalized in any way needed. The Catholic HEART Workcamp mission is to revitalize communities and beautify homes for the elderly, disabled and those who cannot afford needed repairs. And you will be empowered to live as disciples of Christ through serving others. To foster your spiritual growth through the sacraments, Catholic faith sharing and prayer.

Name: Youth in Theology and Ministry

More information can be found at www.csbsju.edu/sot/ytm

Place: Collegeville, MN

Dates: Jun 13-26, 2010

Cost: \$400 (for a 2 week retreat... what a DEAL!)

There is both a Spiritual and Service element to this program, so participation in YTM will cover your Retreat requirement and MOST of your service requirement.

YTM is a two-week retreat that takes place at the beautiful St. John's University campus in Collegeville, MN. At the YTM Summer Institutes, youth engage in learning about the Catholic faith, do community service at a variety of sites around St. Cloud and the surrounding area, and experience a variety of Christian prayer forms. It's a great way to reconnect with God and serve the people of God.

Name: Pentecost Retreat

Place: St. Thomas More

Dates: 1 night a week for 6 weeks following Easter

Cost: About \$30

A time to learn about and experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A very Spirit-filled experience. (more details to come)

NEW ADDITION!! Confirmation Retreat at Broomtree Catholic Retreat Center

Date: Saturday, Feb 6th, 2010 Leave Brookings at 8:00 am, and return around 7:00 pm.

Cost: \$35 per student, lunch is included. STM will provide transportation.

Space is limited, so please register soon by contacting Rachel Mark before Jan 13th.

**** SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUTH RETREATS! ****

Please ask Rachel or Phillip