

Confirmation Preparation at Home

2009-2010

General Information:

- **Notifications:** Please complete a registration form for your child through the parish office by October 4th, 2009 if your child will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this school year or even the following year. This helps us make future plans. Two years of focused preparation is expected and encouraged for a sacrament.
- **Age:** *Confirmandi* must have received Baptism and completed their 13th year at the time of Confirmation in order to be confirmed. Confirmations are generally held at St. Peter every year in May.

Requirements for Youth in Their 2nd Year of Confirmation Preparation:

- **Interview with Fr. Cook:** Call and schedule an interview with Father at 341-4560 ext. 104 by February 1, 2010. Interviews will take place throughout the month of February.
 - **Saint Paragraph:** The *confirmandus* should bring to the interview a short paragraph on the saint that he has chosen for his Confirmation name (the essay should include a brief history of the saint, the saint's relevance and appeal for the *confirmandus*, etc. Plagiarism will not be accepted.)
 - **Letter to Archbishop Curtiss: Letter to the Bishop:** A letter addressed to Archbishop Curtiss – preferably typed – asking permission for confirmation and explaining such things as why the *confirmandus* wants to be confirmed, the saint he's chosen and why, etc.
- **General Written Exam:** Saturday, March 6, 2010 at 10 a.m. in St. Peter School in McMahan Hall or St. Peter School (final location TBD). The content of the final test and oral interview will be taken from the *Faith & Life Series, Volume 8: Our Life in the Church* (second year of preparation). Objective questions for the exam will come from the definitions and statements both taken from the *Faith & Life* text and found in the attached sheets.
- **NEW: Confirmation Practice w/ Sponsors:** Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 10 a.m. in St. Peter Church. Holy Hour and opportunity for confession follow from 11 a.m. – noon.
- **NEW: Sacrament of Confirmation:** Saturday, May 22, 2010 at 5 p.m. in St. Peter Church with Archbishop Lucas; youth should arrive at 4 p.m. in McMahan Hall.

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Additional Requirements for Youth in Their 2nd Year of Confirmation

Preparation:

- **Memorized Prayers:** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Come, Holy Spirit Prayer* (in English), *Memorare, Anima Christi, Act of Contrition*, the Ten Commandments, the Seven Sacraments, the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the twenty mysteries of the Rosary.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

V. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant, that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Latin

Veni, Sancte Spiritus, reple tuorum corda fidelium: et tui amoris in eis ignem accende.

V. Emitte Spiritum tuum, et creabuntur.

R. Et renovabis faciem terrae.

Oremus. Deus, qui corda fidelium Sancti Spiritus illustratione docuisti: da nobis in eodem Spiritu recta sapere; et de eius semper consolatione gaudere. Per Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

- **Documentation:** The following documents should be submitted to Sr. Clara via the rectory office by February 28, 2009.
 - **Baptismal Certificate:** A copy of the baptismal certificate of the *confirmandus*.
 - **Sponsor Letter:** Sponsors must send to the parish office a letter obtained from their parish pastor indicating that they are Catholics in good standing and, if married, were married in the Catholic Church. Sponsors should see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with confirmation. Sponsors should be:
 - Practicing Roman Catholics (attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation)
 - At least 16 years of age
 - Confirmed and Communed
 - Leading a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, for example, if a sponsor is single, he or she should be living chastely, or if the sponsor is married, the marriage must have been witnessed in the Catholic Church or must have received proper dispensation
 - Sponsors may not be under a canonical penalty nor may they be either the father or mother of the person to be baptized.

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▪ **Sponsor Letter:**

- **Letter of Permission:** If the family of the *confirmandus* is not a member of the parish, a letter from the family's pastor granting permission for classes at St. Peter and/or reception of the Sacrament at St. Peter must be received before any instruction takes place.

Dress for Confirmation:

- Because the white alb is the traditional garb in which to receive sacraments – it is a reminder of our baptismal gown and dignity in Christ – we do recommend that girls and boys dress in white as much as possible. Having said that, we realize that it may be difficult to find boys' trousers or even suits that are white, so we ask families to do the best they can within reason and their financial limitations.
 - **Girls:** Modest, white dress or a modest, white blouse and white skirt (knee length dresses or skirts and no revealing tops) and dress shoes.
 - **Boys:** Button-down, long-sleeve, white shirts with collar, white tie or bowtie, nice white pants or trousers (no jeans), and dress shoes (no tennis shoes). Suit coat optional.

Photographs: TBA

Special, optional event(s) for youth receiving their Confirmation in 2010:

- **2010 Pro-Life Day(s) of Reflection:** We encourage all our youth receiving Confirmation in 2010 to attend either a special Day of Reflection at Trinity Heights in Sioux City, IA on Saturday, April 10th, 2010 or a two-day, overnight retreat at the Broomtree Retreat Center on both Saturday and Sunday, April 10th & 11th, 2010 in South Dakota. We are still deciding which path to take and will make details available as they come. What is certain is that we will offer something on this weekend in April in 2010.

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

MEMORIZED PRAYERS:

- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- BONUS:**
 - Come, Holy Spirit
 - Memorare*
 - Anima Christi*
 - Twenty Mysteries of the Rosary

GENERAL:

- Who made the whole world? *God.*
- How many gods are there? *One.*
- How many persons in that one God? *Three.*
- What are these Divine Persons names? *The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*
- What do we call these three Persons in one God? *The Trinity*
- Which one of the Divine Persons became a human being? *The Son, Word, or Second Person of the Trinity*
- What do we call that event, God becoming man? *The Incarnation.*
- What do we call Him? *Jesus.*
- Who was Jesus' mother? *Mary.* Who was Jesus' Father? *God, the Father.* Who was His foster father? *St. Joseph.*
- Why was Jesus special? *Jesus was both God and man.*
- What did Jesus do for us? *Jesus died for us.*
- Why did He die for us? *To save us from sin and eternal death and to reveal the love and face of the Father.*
- What happened three days after Jesus' death? He rose from the dead.*
- What day do we celebrate His Resurrection? *Easter.*
- Why is Jesus' Resurrection important for us? *At the end of the world, everyone's body will be resurrected and reunited with their souls, some to eternal life and some to eternal death.*
- Why do human beings die? *Because of original sin.*
- What was the original sin? *The sin of Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
- What were its consequences? *The loss of original grace of holiness and justice, the wounding of humanity's natural powers, the subjection of suffering and death, and the inclination to sin known as concupiscence.*

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- What is sin? *A word, act or desire contrary to the eternal Law of God.*
- What is the difference between mortal and venial sin? *Mortal sins are grave matter that are committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent that deprive of us sanctifying grace and, if unrepented, lead us to hell. Venial sins are essentially different from a mortal sin and either its matter is less serious or it lacks full knowledge and consent.*
- List the Ten Commandments:
 1. *I am the LORD your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.*
 2. *You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.*
 3. *Remember to keep holy the LORD'S day.*
 4. *Honor your father and your mother.*
 5. *You shall not kill.*
 6. *You shall not commit adultery.*
 7. *You shall not steal.*
 8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*
 9. *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.*
 10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.*
- What are the two Great Commandments of Jesus?
 1. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment."*
 2. *"And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).*
- What happens to people when they die? *The souls separate from their bodies. Where do they go and why do they go there? Heaven, hell or purgatory.*
- What day did Jesus send the Holy Spirit? *Pentecost, fifty days of Easter.*
- Pentecost was the birthday of what? *The Catholic Church.*
- What is the name of the Church Jesus founded on Peter? *The Catholic Church.*
- What are the four marks of the Catholic Church? *One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.* What do they mean?
- What is the name of the current pope? *Pope Benedict XVI.*
- What is the name of the Archbishop of Omaha? *Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss.*
- What is the definition of a sacrament? ***A sacrament is a visible (outward) sign instituted by Christ to give grace.***
- List the seven sacraments? *Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.* Can you describe what they look like and what they do?
- Which are the sacraments of initiation? *Christian initiation is accomplished by means of the sacraments which establish the foundations of Christian life. The faithful born anew by Baptism are strengthened by Confirmation and are then nourished by the Eucharist.*
- What was the original order of the sacraments of initiation? *Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.* Why are they out of order? *Because in the West the*

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bishop remains the ordinary minister of Confirmation and people had to wait after baptism for the bishop to journey to their city and church; thus, people received Confirmation and Eucharist later and later in life. Meanwhile, Pope Pius X lowered the age of the reception of Holy Communion to the age of 7 but did not change the age of Confirmation, so now most children receive Communion around the age of 7 and Confirmation when they are older.

CONFIRMATION:

- What is Confirmation? *The effect of Confirmation is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that of Pentecost. This outpouring impresses on the soul an indelible character and produces a growth in the grace of Baptism. It roots the recipient more deeply in divine sonship, binds him more firmly to Christ and to the Church and reinvigorates the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his soul. It gives a special strength to witness to the Christian faith.*
- Who instituted Confirmation? *Jesus.*
- What are the roots of Confirmation in Scripture? *In John 16:7 and elsewhere (John 14:16, 26; John 15:26) Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit after His Ascension and explains the necessity of the gift of the Spirit; He actually sends the Holy Spirit in a way in John 20:22 and more formally and specifically to the whole Church in Acts 2:11 at Pentecost.*
- What are the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 1. *Wisdom*
 2. *Knowledge*
 3. *Understanding*
 4. *Counsel*
 5. *Fortitude*
 6. *Piety*
 7. *Fear of the Lord (Awe or Respect of God)*
- Which of the gifts of the Spirit do you want the most?
- What is the form and matter of the sacrament of Confirmation? *The essential rite of Confirmation is the anointing with Sacred Chrism oil, which is done by the laying on of the hand of the minister who pronounces the sacramental words proper to the rite. In the West this anointing is done on the forehead of the baptized with the words, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit". In the Eastern Churches of the Byzantine rite this anointing is also done on other parts of the body with the words, "The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit".*
- Why is oil used? What does it symbolize? What is unique about the oil? *Sacred Chrism is oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the bishop; it is used in Confirmation and Holy Orders.*
- Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation and why? *The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop. In this way the link between the confirmed and the Church in her apostolic dimension is made manifest. When a priest confers this sacrament, as ordinarily happens in the East and in special cases in the West, the link with the bishop and with the Church is expressed by the priest who is the collaborator of the bishop and by the Sacred Chrism, consecrated by the bishop himself.*

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PERSONAL:

- Do you love God? Do you feel loved by God?
- Do you go to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation? Why or why not?
- Do you pray? How do you pray?
- Why do you want to be confirmed?
- Which saint did you choose for your Confirmation name? _____.
What is special about him? What did he/she do?

BONUS:

ECCLESIOLOGY:

- What are some of the titles and images for the Church? What is the Mystical Body of Christ? What is the true Church of Christ?
- What is the Magisterium? Why should we obey the teachings of the Church?
- Why do we believe in a Pope? What is a Pope? Who was the first Pope?
- What is Apostolic Succession? Who are bishops?
- What is Tradition?
- What is Sacred Scripture? What makes it unique? Who created Scripture? Who decided on the books of Scripture?
- What is inspiration?
- What are the precepts of the Church?
- What are the Holy Days of Obligation?
- What is the Communion of the Saints?

WRITTEN EXAM DEFINITIONS

The following is a list of words and definitions to help prepare for the Confirmation Test and the Oral Quiz. The test will be multiple choice, fill in the blank, true and false and matching. The questions and answers will be created from this list of words and definitions.

1. **One God**-one God who created the heavens and the earth and He has no parts or compositions.
2. **Trinity**-One God and three distinct Persons who share in the divine nature and are equal.
3. **God the Father**-first person of the Trinity and is the Creator.
4. **God the Son**-second person of the Trinity and is the Redeemer
5. **God the Holy Spirit**-third person of the Trinity and is the Sanctifier.
6. **Incarnation**-God made man-Jesus is true God and true man
7. human and divine natures
8. **The Passion**- The events surrounding the Suffering and Death of Jesus.

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9. **Resurrection**- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day by His own power.
10. **Ascension**- Jesus ascends into heaven on his own power.
11. **Redemption and Salvation**- Jesus liberated humanity from sin and its consequences.
12. **Grace**- supernatural gift from God to help us achieve holiness and Heaven.
13. **Creation**- god creates out of nothing.
14. **Angels**- Spirits with intelligence and a will. Messengers and mediators to express the will of God.
15. **Human beings** are body and soul and are made in the image of God.
16. **Original Sin**- The sin committed by Adam as head of the human race and passed on to every human being with the exception of Jesus and the Blessed Mother.
17. **Sin**- a word, deed or desire in opposition to the eternal law. Deliberate offense of the law of God, a turning away from God.
18. **Mortal Sin**- destroys sanctifying grace and causes the supernatural death of the soul.
19. **Venial Sin**- offense against God which does not deprive the sinner of sanctifying grace.
20. **Pentecost**- The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Blessed Mother and the apostles. Birthday of the Church.
21. **Church**- the faithful of the whole world, the assembly of all who believe in Jesus Christ. The faithful united by the same profession of faith and participation in the sacraments.
22. **Mystical Body of Christ**- the Catholic Church established by Jesus Christ as a continuation of the Incarnation.
23. **Magisterium**- The teaching office or duty of the Church.
24. **Pope**- the successor of St. Peter. Vicar of Jesus Christ, Bishop of Rome, visible head of the entire Church.
25. **Tradition**- The teachings of Jesus Christ passed on to his followers.
26. **Scripture**- the written word of God.
27. **Old Testament**- Creation until the birth of Jesus. Gods chosen people. It prefigures the Church.
28. **Salvation History**- The story of God's plan to bring us all to heaven in spite of our sinfulness beginning with Creation to Christ's Redemption.
29. **New Testament**- The books in the Bible from John the Baptist to the books of Revelation.
30. **Four Marks of the Church**- one, holy, catholic, apostolic.
31. **Sacrament**- a visible (outward) sign instituted by Jesus Christ to give grace and to make us holy.

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32. **Communion of Saints**- The unity and co-operation of the members of the Church on earth with those in Heaven and Purgatory. We may assist each other with prayers, good works and penances.
33. **Heaven**- The place and condition of perfect supernatural happiness, consisting of the immediate vision and love of God.
34. **Hell**- The place and state of eternal punishment for the fallen angels and human beings that die deliberately separated from the love of God.
35. **Purgatory**- The place and condition in which the souls of the just are purified after death and before they may enter Heaven.
36. **Mary**- The ever-virgin Mother of God-Jesus, the spouse of the Holy Spirit, wife of St. Joseph, Queen of the Heavenly Court, Our Heavenly Mother given to us by Jesus on the cross.
37. **Sacraments of Initiation**- Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
38. **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fortitude and fear of the Lord.
39. **Baptism**- takes away Original Sin, fills our soul with sanctifying grace, and makes us followers of Jesus Christ and members of the Church. Matter- threefold pouring or immersion with water. Form-the words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We receive sacramental grace. Jesus instituted the sacrament in the following Gospels-Mt 28:18-20; Jn 3:5
40. **Eucharist**- the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine. Matter-bread and wine. Form- the words "This is My Body...This is the cup of My Blood." we receive sacramental grace when we receive the Eucharist. Jesus instituted the Eucharist in the following Gospels- Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-25, Lk 22:7-20; Jn 6:25-71; Lk 24:13-53
41. **Reconciliation**- absolution is given for the forgiveness of sins committed after Baptism. Matter- contrition, confession and satisfaction. Form-the words "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We receive sacramental grace when we go to reconciliation. Jesus instituted this sacrament in the following Gospels- Jn 20:19-23; Mt 16:13-19
42. **Confirmation**-an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and his gifts, and a maturation of faith for full initiation into the Church. Matter-laying of hands and anointing with chrism. Form-the words "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit." We receive sacramental grace with this sacrament. Jesus instituted this sacrament in the following Gospel and through the Church in Acts of the Apostles. Jn 20:21-22 and Acts 2:1-4; Acts 8:14-17
43. **Holy Matrimony**- man and woman are united for life and receive the ability and graces needed to help each other and their children reach Heaven. Matter- a baptized man and baptized woman consent. Form-

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marriage vows. We receive sacramental grace in this sacrament. Jesus instituted this sacrament in the following Gospel and through the Church in the following Epistles. Mt 19-3-12; Eph 5:25-32; 1 Cor 12-16

44. **Holy Orders**- a man is ordained to ministry for the Church as a deacon, priest or bishop. Matter-laying of hands. Form-prayer of ordination. We receive sacramental grace. Jesus instituted this sacrament in the Gospel and through the Church in the Epistles. Lk 22:19; and Heb 5: 1-10
45. **Anointing of the Sick**- through the anointing and prayers of a priest, a person receives healing of soul and possibly of body and is prepared for union with God. Matter- anointing with oil and laying of hands. Form- Prayer of anointing. We receive sacramental grace. Jesus instituted this sacrament in the following Gospels, Jn 9:1-7; Mk 2:1-12
46. The following must be committed to memory and will be used in the testing: The Ten Commandments, the Seven Sacraments, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the following prayers: *The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Come Holy Spirit, Memorare, Anima Christi* and *Act of Contrition*.