

OUR LADY OF THE PINES

2011-2012 CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

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Confirmation is an initiation sacrament for the Roman Catholic Church. It is a time when the foundation of faith is blossoming for a teenager who is reaching young adulthood. At our parish, the typical age for Confirmation is the 8th grade.

This handbook is written to provide you with guidelines and requirements for our Confirmation program.

ATTENDANCE

CLASS AND RETREAT ATTENDANCE -

Attendance at all class and scheduled calendar activities is **mandatory**. Both the overnight retreat in November and the two-night retreat in March are required. A schedule of class and activity times has been provided to you. Mark these dates on your calendar NOW, as these activities are essential in the formation of your child. If it is necessary to miss some activity, due to a family emergency, please call the Confirmation coordinators, **Jim and Kristie Becker at 303-838-5264, or email them at kebecker50@yahoo.com.**

MASS ATTENDANCE -

A Sunday Mass at 4:30 pm is included as part of the Confirmation program unless otherwise noted on the calendar. The candidate and family should attend Mass regularly in order to participate in the sacramental life of the community into which they are being confirmed.

PARENT AND SPONSOR ATTENDANCE -

Parents and sponsors need to participate in the sessions designated for them so that they are aware of the program developments and how it pertains to them. Parents and sponsors are welcome to attend any of the sessions.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE on April 29th -

The candidate and sponsor must attend the rehearsal for the Confirmation ceremony in order to participate with knowledge and comfort during the ceremony itself.

DRESS CODE

CLASSROOM AND RETREATS-

Candidates must wear appropriate dress during class time, parish events and on retreats. Modest and unsuggestive clothing is expected.

CONFIRMATION DAY -

Please be aware of the significance of the surroundings and the ceremony. This includes being in church at a solemn ceremony attended by our Pastor and the Archbishop or Bishop (or representative) as well as your parents, sponsors and families. We desire that you represent our church youth well. In general, dress as you would if you were to visit an important public figure. Dressing up for this occasion will help you feel the importance of this ceremony. Keep in mind; however, this is not a prom, so please dress appropriately for this special church event.

You may want to practice walking in the shoes you are going to wear that day so you don't trip or stumble in procession or coming up for the anointing by the celebrant.

BOYS: We do not require ties or suits, but we would love to see them! Please wear at least a dress shirt with a collar, tucked in and dress pants. No jeans or "baggy-type" pants.

GIRLS: Please wear a nice dress or pants. We ask that you cover the line of your collarbone and the tops of your shoulders. No cleavage, no strapless tops, no skin-tight tops or bottoms, no bare midriff, no spaghetti straps. Bring a jacket or sweater if you are in doubt. Make sure the length of your dress or skirt is appropriate for sitting, kneeling, standing, bowing, etc. Modesty is important in the face of this event.

You will be having your picture taken both with the group and as an individual with your sponsor. Dress in a manner that you will be proud in the future to show people your Confirmation pictures.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE -

A candidate must have been baptized in the Catholic Church. (Those baptized in another Christian community should speak to Father Jim to determine if a Profession of Faith is required.) A candidate's baptismal certificate or a certified photocopy of it is required. The certificate must be turned in to the church office by September 25th, 2011.

CONFIRMATION FEES -

There are fees necessary to cover the expenses of materials for the class as well as cover the room and board for the retreats. The classroom fee is \$55 if paid after September 6th. The final due date for the classroom fee is September 25th. The retreat fee is \$130 and is due by January 22nd, 2012. If the retreat fee is paid after January 22nd, the cost will increase by \$10 to \$140. Checks should be made payable to Our Lady of the Pines.

LETTER TO FATHER JIM -

Before the Rite of Confirmation, the candidate will write a letter to Fr. Jim. Instructions on how to write this letter and what the content should be will be included in your child's notebook. The letter is due in class on April 15, 2012.

PARISH REGISTRATION -

The family of the candidate should be registered at Our Lady of the Pines or St. Elizabeth's, or the candidate can register independently. Special permission may be granted with Fr. Jim's approval if you are a member of another parish. Check with us if this pertains to you.

HOMEWORK

A reading assignment will be given each time to prepare for the next week's topic. A worksheet and reflection sheet is also assigned each week to review the topic that was just presented. Each candidate will have a schedule of the entire year's homework assignments in the front of their notebook. The homework pages are also in their entirety in the notebook so there should be no reason not to come prepared each week. Homework must be completed before coming to class. We will be in touch with parents if your child does not come ready.

SNACKS

We will have a sign-up sheet at the parent meeting for parents to provide the entire class with a light snack (i.e.: chips, pretzels, cookies, etc.) and drink for at least one of the classes.

READINESS

If you and your family cannot commit to the time and effort required of this program, perhaps this is not the year to be in the Confirmation program. Another time may be better for you. If family pressures: illness, death, work travel, other outside stresses or pressures

are going to make it impossible for you to do everything and do it well, please talk with Fr. Jim or Jim and Kristie Becker so we can assist you in the decision to join us this year.

RETREATS

Because of the nature of the progressive experience on the retreats, candidates must attend both Confirmation retreats (the November overnight and the March two-night *Search* retreat) in their entirety. (A copy of the March retreat brochure will be included in your child's notebook). Fees for the March retreat must be paid before the candidate attends the retreat. See previous fee information.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Candidates are strongly encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least twice before the day of Confirmation. They will be provided an opportunity for this on the March *Search* retreat.

SAINT'S NAME

Candidates will need to choose a Confirmation name. This name should be the name of a canonized saint. Candidates will write a report about the saint they chose which will be due November 11th.

SERVICE HOUR PROJECTS

Service hours are "putting one's faith into action" and then reflecting upon it. Candidates are to complete a minimum of 25 clock hours of service, 5 in the community, and 10 each in the family and the church. A candidate must complete all service hours as required and turn in all completed sheets by April 15th, 2012.

The purpose of the service hour project is to enable an individual to extend past him/herself and live a life of service following Christ's example. The individual should not simply continue a work that was begun prior to Confirmation classes or something that is required by school.

The service project chosen should meet the following requirements:

1. Have started and been completed between June 2011 and April 2012.

2. No "payment" may be received, whether that is monetary, bonus points, or school credit.
3. Some projects may be considered as hours credited to any category: church, family or community, as the individual decides.
4. **BEGIN EARLY** --- We expect candidates to serve and complete forms on or before the homework calendar deadlines.

Blank forms to be completed are included in the Candidate Notebook or can be obtained at every Confirmation class.

Opportunities for service hours or any questions concerning the service hours can be directed to the Service Project Coordinator, Kelly Amen (kamen@atbsshow.com).

Fr. Jim will review all completed forms.

SPONSOR

Start thinking now! We will need to know your sponsor's name by November 6th. Select your sponsor carefully. **A candidate shall choose a sponsor who is a Confirmed, practicing Catholic.** A candidate should not choose their parent as their sponsor. We urge the candidate to pick someone who lives close so he/she can participate in the program with the candidate and lend spiritual support to the candidate in the coming year. The sponsor will be asked to attend two assigned classes (see calendar) as well as a Mass in March and the rehearsal and Confirmation ceremony. They will also need to meet with their candidates several times during the year on their own. A Sponsor guide will be provided to use with the candidate. Sponsor forms (given to them at the orientation meeting) must be turned in by November 6th.