

# Family & Candidate's Handbook for Confirmation Preparation 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



## **Information and Directions**

**2011 -2012**

***Our Lady of Sorrows - St. Anthony Parish  
Office of Religious Education  
Mercerville, New Jersey 08619***

*Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.*

September, 2011

**Dear Parents & Guardians,**

We congratulate you on the first year of your child's special spiritual journey towards Confirmation. This year will be special for you and your family.

Confirmation is the next major stage of your child's faith journey, and as parents and guardians, you are your children's companions as they travel this road. You are their main spiritual examples, and the leaders of your family's faith life. We will work with you to strengthen their faith, and their relationships with God, with you, and with one another at church.

Preparation sessions for Confirmation include not only the teaching of faith basics, but also the application of those teachings to the children's relationships and long-term decisions and goals.

*Your children are special to us, and even more special in God's eyes.*

Be assured that we who serve you and your family in this ministry are here to support you in your role as your child's primary teacher in the ways of our Faith. We are here as catechists, teachers, staff members and fellow parishioners to help you in any way possible. We want to share with you and your child/children, the Gospel message as clearly and vibrantly as possible.

In this journey, a very special task for our children is to concentrate on identifying the person whom he/she would like to pick as his/her sponsor. Please carefully read the requirements for this unique role, and support your child in making the right choice. Call us if you have any questions or need clarification.

We appreciate your commitment in sending your children to us. We promise our dedication as we journey together with you and your family to be witnesses of the Gospel and to grow with our children as active vibrant members of the faith community.

Sincerely,

Mariyam Francis  
Director of Religious Education

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> grade Candidates:

Congratulations on the first year of your special spiritual journey towards Confirmation. You are getting there! You did a good job in grade 6, and we are sure that you will continue on this path with faith and hope.

This year you have to concentrate on identifying the person whom you would like to pick as your sponsor. In this handbook you will find all the information regarding how to choose a sponsor.

During this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is very important that you begin to think in a new way about your sponsor, and about your relationship with him or her. You have to strengthen your relationship with this unique person who will be a faith model for you. In order to help you to do this, we would like you to write your own Christian autobiography and include a short description of your sponsor. We ask that you put time, effort, talent and serious thought into your finished project.

We have provided a suggested outline to help you begin to organize your thoughts. You do not need long responses to each and every question. However, we would like you to include some reflections on your Past, Present and Future.

**Because this project is an important part of your preparation period**, it is our desire that you get the most that you can out of it. Therefore, feel free to ask your parents, teachers, brothers, sisters (how about your Sponsor too?) for their advice and suggestions. However, these essays must be **YOUR OWN WORK**.

Since this is your work, PLEASE use a computer to finish your project. Use pictures if you like. A cover is required for the biography. This project should be typed, double-spaced, in Time New Roman font, with one-inch margins and with all pages numbered. No less than **6** pages in length. (We are leaving it up to you to decide exactly how you will do this project!)

Your biography will be returned to you at the end of your Confirmation preparations, when you experience your final interview.

Your service project journey will also continue, and I want that you to have successful and meaningful experiences this year. Your catechists will speak with you later about service projects. At the conclusion of seventh grade preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation, all students will be expected to return their service booklet, which will be kept in your file and given to you back at the Confirmation interview.

All students participating in first year of the program of Confirmation Preparation are presented with a Candidate Review Guide. You will find it attached with this handbook and review guide for the interview process. The guide contains the basics of our Faith in an age-appropriate format. These are basics, which all Catholics should know.

You have studied these areas in depth during your previous years of religious instruction. None of the materials included in the booklet are new. They are all 'Review' materials. Part of the first year requirements for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a test of your knowledge of these basics. The interview will be taken directly from the information in this guide.

God Bless you  
Mariyam Francis  
Director of Religious Education

# **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM... AN OVERVIEW**

The Parish Office of Religious Education of Our Lady of Sorrows –St. Anthony offers a two year intense program of study and preparation prior to the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation. This program takes into consideration directives regarding Sacramental preparation from *The National Catechetical Directory*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)* and the *Policies of the Diocese of Trenton* in regard to Confirmation. The long-range goal is to prepare the youth of today for active participation and ministry in the Roman Catholic Church of tomorrow. This preparation takes place beginning in the sixth grade and culminates in the eighth grade with the conferral of the Sacrament.

## **YEAR 1 REQUIREMENTS**

Commitment to the Journey:  
Application for the Confirmation  
Christian Autobiography  
Community Service  
(20 hours required)  
Service Reflection Paper  
Choosing a Saint  
Confirmation Sponsor  
Interview

## **YEAR 2 REQUIREMENTS**

Letter to the pastor  
Retreat  
Penance Service  
Confirmation Practice

## ***Confirmation Candidate Requirements First Year - Grade 7***

The following criteria will be used to determine the readiness of the candidate to move from Remote Preparation (Grades 7) into Immediate Preparation (Grade 8) for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Faithfully celebrating the Eucharist each week

A conscientious study of all the required materials

Regular and prompt attendance at class

Behavior that reflects a mature attitude towards the reception of the Sacrament

Some ways in which this attitude should be manifested are:

- ✓ An evident desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✓ A spirit of reverence at all religious ceremonies.
- ✓ A respectful attitude towards all authority, teachers, and classmates.
- ✓ A willingness to fulfill all the requirements necessary for Confirmation preparation.
- ✓ A prompt return of all assignments on or before due dates.
- ✓ A careful use of textbooks and related materials.

## **As First Year Participants you are asked to:**

- \* Learn about your faith.
  - \* Practice your faith through service.
  - \* Participate in community worship.
  - \* Explore various ministries in the parish

## **As First Year Participants you are asked:**

- \* Are you ready to serve your family and Community?
  - \* How are you going to serve them?
  - \* What is your attitude as you serve your family and Community?

## **Confirmation Information**

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are **Sacraments of Initiation** into the life of the Church. They are not isolated events or “holy inoculations.” They are sacred moments in the life of fully participating Catholics.

In **Baptism** we become a member of Christ’s body, the Church. In Baptism we are cleansed from original sin and any previous sin. The Church recognizes one Baptism for each person.

In **Confirmation** the Bishop or his representative anoints the Baptized Candidate with oil and confirms the Baptism. In many sections of the world confirmation precedes Eucharist.

When we receive the **Eucharist**, we receive Jesus who nourishes and forgives us in our Christian journey.

**Mass** is the **gathering** of the **People of God (the Church)**

- ...to **hear and reflect on God’s word and it’s meaning in our lives**
- ...to **receive Jesus**
- ...to be dismissed to **bring Jesus to the world**

**By asking the Church for Confirmation**, you are acknowledging your active participation in the Sacramental life of the Church. Your openness to God’s grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit aids you in your work of serving Jesus.

## **Adult Responsibilities**

**Parents are the primary educators** of their children in matters of faith. School and Parish Religious Education programs assist parents in this responsibility.

### **The Parish Wishes To Reach Out To Everyone**

**Confirmed young people** continue to be strengthened in their Christian journey by taking part in Ministries for Youth for prayer and support. They grow spiritually through personal prayer, family prayer, Scripture reading and by following the Precepts of the Church.

**Adults** are invited to grow spiritually by taking part in adult programs of the Church and by seeking spiritual guidance through personal prayer, Scripture reading and following the Precepts of the Church. Adults who have not had the opportunity for Confirmation are invited to receive the Sacrament.

# Common Questions about Confirmation

## **Why do different dioceses and parishes confirm at different ages?**

In the early Church people were **Baptized** and **Anointed with Oil** at the same time by the Bishop when they were accepted into the Church community. Then they were invited to the **Eucharistic Celebration**. As the Church grew and the Bishops visited less frequently it was decided that the Presbyter (Priest) would **Baptize** with water and the Bishop would later **Confirm** by anointing the Baptized with oil during his visit. The initiated could receive the Eucharist. The practice of combining the three **Sacraments of Initiation** (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) in infancy takes place in Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches today.

Over the years in the Roman Catholic Church, reception of Eucharist was delayed until the age of 14.

In 1910, Pope Pius X moved the age of First Eucharist to age 7 but made no statement about the age of Confirmation. In many areas of the world, people continued to confirm at a later age. The Sacrament of Confirmation thus moved out of the original sequence.

In 1991 Pope John Paul II asked the Bishops of the United States to come up with a uniform age for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The U.S. asked Rome to allow Confirmation ages to remain 7-18 with the Bishop of each diocese making the decision.

Several U.S. dioceses have restored the order to the original sequence and now confirm before First Eucharist at the same mass.

## **Why does the candidate need a sponsor?**

“From the earliest days of the Church, those seeking communion with the Church were supported and sponsored by specific people chosen from the community. At Baptism the significant people are our parents and Godparents (baptismal sponsors) who promise that we will be raised in the faith. They profess their faith because we cannot speak for ourselves. Parents accept the responsibility of training the newly Baptized in the practice of the faith. Godparents promise to help the parents in their duties. In Confirmation the Baptized themselves will ...renew their Baptismal promises. They will be supported by a sponsor who will present them to the Bishop” {or his delegate} “for Confirmation.”

## **A sponsor should be:**

When possible the Candidate's Godparent

Someone who would support and encourage faith

A Catholic who has received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

A Catholic who participates in the Eucharistic celebration every Sunday and lives a good Catholic life

## **Why should we be confirmed?**

Without Confirmation Christian initiation is incomplete. It is important to celebrate all three of the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Together they bring us into full membership in the Church.

### **Can we get to heaven if we are not confirmed?**

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation that completes and perfects the Sacrament of Baptism. It is a free gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our Christian journey. It is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of getting to heaven. Going to heaven is the completion of a Christian journey involving prayer, worship and life choices. Living a sacramental life strengthens our relationship with God.

### **Does a Catholic have to be confirmed to get married?**

The code of Canon Law (#1065) states that “Catholics who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation are to receive it before being admitted to Marriage if this can be done without grave inconvenience.” The simple answer is yes but the code gives leeway for exceptions.

### **Do we have to be confirmed to be a Godparent?**

To be a Godparent, a person needs to be practicing Catholic and fully initiated (having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

### **Do we have to be regularly attending Church to be confirmed?**

If you don't plan to take part in the faith life of the Church, why bother with Confirmation? Sacraments are moments of initiation into a worshipping community (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), moments of commitment to service (Holy Orders, Matrimony) and moments of healing (Reconciliation, Sacrament of Healing). Sacraments taken without intent to participate in the life of the Church misses the whole point of the Sacrament. Attending Sunday Mass is one of the Precepts of the Church. “The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (illness, care of infants) or dispensed by the pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.” CCC#2181

### **Why is the purpose of parent meetings?**

Parent meetings offer an opportunity to discuss practical matters such as schedules, to have questions answered about possible changes since we received Confirmation, and clarify our understanding about Catholic faith.

### **What happens if my child misses classes?**

Attendance at all **25** sessions is important. The meetings are designed to set a tone of welcoming the Candidate into the life of the faith community. If a Candidate misses a meeting due to illness, please contact the Office of Religious Education to arrange a one-hour make-up meeting with candidates and parents. (Only serious illness is an acceptable reason to miss a meeting.

## **SUMMARY OF KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

In the United States, there is no set age for being confirmed, and so, there is no single catechesis for the sacrament. Catechesis is geared to the particular age of the candidates. The National Catechetical Directory lists some optional elements of a Confirmation Program:

- n Performance standards for Christian membership and community service
- n A specified minimum number of hours of service
- n A letter of request for Confirmation
- n Preparation program of catechesis extending over 2 or 3 years
- n Use of adult advisors

The revised Rite of Confirmation and the National Catechetical Directory state that the following elements must be a part of any Confirmation program:

- n the intimate relationship of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist should be emphasized
- n catechesis should take place within the parish community
- n the parish community has an obligation to participate in the catechetical preparation
- n as primary educators of their children, parents, along with sponsors, are to be intimately involved in the catechesis and actively involved in the celebration of the sacrament

In addition, the candidates should have met these qualifications:

- n have been baptized
- n know the conditions for receiving Confirmation worthily---to be in the state of grace, to be properly instructed, and to be able to renew the baptismal promises
- n know the steps of the rite of Confirmation

In addition it should be noted that the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1994, tells us this...

"A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs." (# 1319)

# The Role and Eligibility of the Confirmation Sponsor According to the Diocese of Trenton

Individual sponsors must be selected. A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can be of assistance on his or her spiritual journey and can share their own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidate's preparation. Ideally, it should be someone who has already been involved in the spiritual formation of the candidate, such as godparents or a member of the local parish.

Opportunity for the inclusion of the sponsor should be provided during the candidate's immediate preparation program in order to enhance the Sponsor's role in the final rite. It is highly recommended that the sponsor be the baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.

## Eligibility

A Confirmation sponsor:

- ✓ Must have completed the sixteenth year of age;
- ✓ Must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation;
- ✓ Must not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of Sponsor;
- ✓ May be the same sponsor the individual had at Baptism;
- ✓ May be a new sponsor elected specifically for Confirmation;
- ✓ May be either male or female for any candidate.

## Eligibility Continued

\*\*The Sponsor a member of Our Lady of Sorrows – St. Anthony parish or any other parish, he or she must obtain a *certificate of eligibility from their parish* stating that they are a registered and practicing Catholic in that parish and that they are approved to be a sponsor for Confirmation. The parish will provide eligibility letter which you have to send to our office.

**NOTE:** Parents are no longer eligible as sponsors (1983 Code of Canon Law)

## Sponsor Responsibilities & Role

**Be at your Best.** If you have been chosen 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. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? It's not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart and a listening ear. If you're a practicing, mature Catholic, don't get too worried. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

**Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be, "get it together," so to speak! If you honestly can't, this is understandable, but maybe you should decline the invitation to be a sponsor. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.

**Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.

**Give of your time and share your gifts.** You'll be asked to spend time together on various activities. This may mean preparing lessons or even working on a Christian service project. You could also share your own experiences or write a letter of encouragement. Let your unique God-given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new Bible, rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name—but *be creative and relevant!*

- **Don't miss the ceremony.** Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, and tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation day is only beginning.
- **Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic.** After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

# Confirmation Preparation Requirements and Event Calendar 2011-2012

**All the paper work will be given to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents meeting on October 3, 2011 at 6:00 PM Lower Church**

## These Events are required to attend:

Presenter	Month/Date	Time	Topic	Place
Priest	November 16,2011	6:00PM to 7:00PM	Sacrament of Initiation	OLS Church
Deacon	February 29,2012	6:00PM to 7:00PM	Ordained Ministers of the Church and Religious Vocation	OLS Church
Catechists/teachers	April 25, 2012	Due papers	Come with parent	OLS School
Confirmation Interviews	May 23, 2012	6:00PM to 9:00PM	Come with parent	OLS School

**Important Note for Parents:** All the paper work should be returned in a timely manner. There will be no reminders sent to the parents. If the required papers are not turned in your child will be not scheduled for the interview. We have picked April 25th for all the parents to come and bring all the required paper work to the class room. The teacher will receive the paper work and get the parents signature. We like to avoid any inconvenience for the parents. We have picked only one day and all the paper work should be back on the appointed date. We would highly appreciate your support in this matter.

A Christian Autobiography should be checked by the teacher before you submit it in April.

## Commitment for the Journey

Parents and candidate make a commitment with the lord to be faithful during their two years Confirmation Journey. **April 25, 2012**

## Community Service

*(We're building the Kingdom of God by service to others)*

As a symbol that followers of Christ lead a life of service; Candidates choose a variety of ways to serve their parish, their families and the parish larger community. Jesus came, "not to be served, but to serve." (Mt.20:28) The Church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the church are also accepting the responsibility to serve.

Candidates for the reception of Confirmation are asked to select service projects which are geared to their own special talents and abilities. Candidates are asked to perform 20 hours of Christian service to others as part of their preparation for Confirmation. The service should be performed freely and willingly. It could help the parish, school, neighborhood or local

community. This service project is meant to represent the candidates' intentions of becoming a full member of this servant community, the church, and special followers of Christ - Christians. The reflection papers are due on **April 25, 2012**.

## **Instructions for a Christian Autobiography**

We will provide a suggested outline to help you begin to organize your thoughts. You do not need long responses to each and every question. However, we would like you to include some reflections on your Past, Present and Future. Your teacher will go over these guidelines (also listed below) in class with you. Once you finish your autobiography, return it to your teacher. She will review it and make suggestions for any needed corrections.

**This project is an important part of your preparation period**, it is our desire that you get the most that you can out of it. Therefore, feel free to ask your parents, teachers, brothers, sisters (how about your Sponsor too?) for their advice and suggestions. However, these essays must be **YOUR OWN WORK**.

Since this is your work, PLEASE use a computer to finish your project. Use pictures if you like. A cover is required for the biography. This project should be typed, double-spaced, in Time New Roman font, with one-inch margins and with all pages numbered. No less than **6** pages in length. (We are leaving it up to you to decide exactly how you will do this project!) Your biography will be returned to you at the end of your Confirmation preparations, when you experience your final **interview in May 23, 2012**

## **Guidelines for Your Christian Autobiography**

During this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is very important that you begin to think about your life with God and your relationship with yourself. In order to help you to do this, we would like you to write your own Christian autobiography. (We are leaving it up to you to decide how you will do this project!) We ask that you put time, effort, talent and serious thought into your finished project. Your autobiography will be returned to you at the end of your Confirmation preparations when you experience your final interview. The following is meant to serve as a guideline to help you begin to organize your thoughts. You do not need to discuss in great length your response to each and every question. However, we would like you to include some reflections on your Past, Present and Future. This project should be no less than six pages in length. Because this project is an important part of your preparation period, it is our desire that you get the most that you can out of it. Therefore, feel free to ask your parents, teachers, brothers, sisters (**how about your Sponsor too?**) for their advice and suggestions. However, your autobiography is to be YOUR OWN WORK. Use pictures if you like and a cover is required.

### **PAST**

Your Baptism...Your first memories about God...Memories of your First Communion...Memories about your religion classes...What did you learn about God from your teachers, parents, Godparents etc....Who influenced your faith most...Ways you thought about God, felt about God, pictured God...How you learned to pray...your favorite prayer...why?

### **PRESENT**

How do you feel about God today...about the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows-ST. Anthony ...about Mass...Sacraments...about being Catholic...about being an altar server (if you are one)...

things you learned about yourself this past year...three things you like best about you...your strengths...your weaknesses...where does God fit into your life?

## **FUTURE**

What are your hopes, plans, dreams, ideals...What changes you would like to see in the Church...How you plan on being active in the church after Confirmation...Your thoughts about the Youth Group...Who will be your **sponsor**...Why you've chosen this person for your Sponsor...Please explain few of his /her qualities ...What Confirmation name you have chosen and why...What you hope to do with your life...How your Confirmation will help you accomplish your plans.

**Project Due: April 25, 2012**

## **Choosing a Saint**

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we choose a name to be confirmed under. It is recommended, the name should be the name of a Saint or person from Scripture who is a good role model. Candidates should learn something about the Saint whose name they choose for Confirmation. The holiness of the person should be an inspiration to the Candidate. The tradition of taking a saint's name in Confirmation is an ancient practice in the church. The patron saint becomes a role model for the person, and an example of how the Gospel can be lived in a practical way. In many Catholic countries today, a saint's name day is celebrated instead of a birthday. Saints are heroes of the faith who lived their lives as examples of faith, hope, and love. We venerate them as we do members of our own families who have died and who we continue to honor with pictures in our homes.

Candidates will select a Confirmation name and complete a report on their Chosen Saint. The Confirmation name chosen is the name by which the candidates will be presented to the Bishop at Confirmation. Research the saint's name you chose for Confirmation. Use the Internet for interesting information on your saint and to find a picture. The Saint report should be at least two pages of content including pictures. Please use the Saint Form Questions as a guide for your report.

## **SOURCES**

Information on saints can be found from Our Religious Education office or from the internets see the following websites:

### **INTERNET SOURCES**

Use a search engine such as Google. Type in "Catholic saints."

For images or information about saints try the following:

[www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/2603/image.htm](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/2603/image.htm)

[www.catholic-forum.com/saints/gallerys.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/gallerys.htm)

[www.americancatholic.com](http://www.americancatholic.com)

[www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp](http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp)

[www.daughtersofstpaul.com/saintday/index.html](http://www.daughtersofstpaul.com/saintday/index.html)

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

**Project Due: April 25, 2012**

**Confirmation Sponsor** Reminiscent of the early Church community, The Sponsor represents the faith community in welcoming and supporting the Candidate. The sponsor also symbolizes the support of the Body of Christ, leading the Candidate in a journey of discipleship. The sponsor joins the parents and Candidates in the preparation period of the sacrament of Confirmation. The most appropriate sponsor, if possible, is the Godparent. Sponsors must be confirmed, practicing Catholics, at least 16 years of age. Please see more details in the **hand book page 8**. You will not receive any type of Sponsor's form from our office.

**Project Due: April 25, 2012**

## **Confirmation Interview**

The most important thing to remember is that the interview is not a test. Candidates are not evaluated on their knowledge. What the interview is meant to do is to help the candidates to think about what the Sacrament of Confirmation really means to them. The interview is a means of assisting the candidate in personally reflecting for one last time, on the Sacrament of Confirmation. The interviews will take place on May 18, 2011 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm in the OLS Elementary school building. The interview will take only ten to fifteen minutes per candidate. This year we are requesting one of the parent accompany the candidate for the interview. Candidates and parents will each receive an assigned time to be interviewed. All the information will be mailed to candidates in March. If a serious conflict occurs, we can accommodate some time shifts provided advance notification is given to us. No candidate is exempt from the interview process.

### **Interview Procedure**

- 1. Dress appropriately for this interview. Behave as a mature, young Christian preparing for a special moment in life. Present a positive attitude toward what you are doing.**
- 2. Register at the main desk before going to your room assignment for your interview. The registration desk will be located outside of the gym on the second floor of the school building. All candidates are to enter the building using the doors by the trailers. (Door #3)**
- 3. The information slip, which will be sent to you in April, will indicate the time of your interview. You will be directed to your room assignment at the registration desk when you arrive for your interview.**
- 4. Arrive for your appointment at least ten minutes ahead of time. Sit on the chair provided outside of the room. The interviewer will indicate when he/she is ready for you. Enter the room only when you are invited by the interviewer to do so.**
- 5. All interviews will last approximately ten to fifteen minutes. Relax!**

6. After you have completed your interview, be sure your interviewer returns your folder of completed seventh and eighth grade work to you.
7. Do not remain in the building to socialize! Please leave the school premises immediately after your interview.

## **What Happens Next in 2012?**

Students who successfully complete the entire seventh grade Confirmation preparation requirements will be accepted for placement into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation preparation classes for Fall of 2012.

Students who have not satisfactorily completed all the requirements outlined in this handbook will not be accepted for placement into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation preparation classes for September 2012.

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS WILL INCLUDE:**

- ☉ Class time and class work
- ☉ Evening of Preparation with Candidates and Sponsors Together
- ☉ Retreat Experience
- ☉ Letter to the Pastor requesting the Sacrament
- ☉ Evening of Reconciliation (Penance Service)
- ☉ Practice sessions



# Confirmation Interview Preparation 2012



## CANDIDATE REVIEW GUIDE



Parents and sponsors may find it helpful to review the following points as preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation interview

