

# *St Joseph Catholic Church*

## *Confirmation 2008 Preparation*

*Basic Information Package*



*“ Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacraments of Christian initiation’... the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace”*

Section 1285, Catechism of the Catholic Church

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia*

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## *Confirmation 2008*

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents, and Sponsors,

In preparation of receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, there is much to be done. Each of us have several responsibilities, which will lead us through this grace-filled journey. If you have any questions along the way, please feel free to ask any of us. Mrs. Pappas (grade8@stjos.org) and Miss Altemus (grade6@stjos.org) are teaching the 8th grade school class; Mrs. Campbell (campy8@msn.com) and Miss Kennedy are teaching the 8<sup>th</sup> grade evening Religious Education class.; Mrs. Maroon-Lango (service@stjos.org) is the coordinator of our Community Ministry Service Projects; and you can reach me, Denise Young, Coordinator of Religious Education (dyoung@stjos.org) at 301-937-7183.

An important part of preparing for Confirmation is learning to serve others as Christ did. Mrs. Clarissa Maroon-Lango is our Community Ministry Service Project Coordinator. There are several suggested projects, such as visiting Hillhaven Nursing home or Assisted Living center, packing lunches for Elizabeth House, gathering and delivering clothing and toiletries to the McKenna men's shelter, compiling and wrapping Christmas Shoebox gifts for the CCNV shelter, and helping with the parish Food Pantry. You will be receiving additional information on these projects in October, but if you want to start on your project during the summer, or if you choose a project not on the list, please check with Mrs. Maroon-Lango (service@stjos.org).

**Responsibilities of the Confirmation Candidate** (including but not limited to):

- Prayerfully contemplate and choose a Confirmation Name
- Complete "Basic Information Page" and turn it in to the Religious Education Office by 10/10/07
- Complete a Saint's name report and turn in by 10/10/07
- Attend Confirmation Commitment Pledge Mass on 10/21/07 at 10:00am
- Attend Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Evening Event on 2/10/08 at 6:00pm
- Complete Community Ministry Service project(s) and turn in form by 4/2/08
- Letter to the Bishop requesting the sacrament of Confirmation, due 4/2/08
- Attend Confirmation Retreat at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center on 4/26/08
- practice your Catholic faith by living a life of regular Catholic worship and Christian service to others.
- Study and learn the religion material taught by Mrs. Altemus and Mrs. Campbell
- Study the "Confirmation Questions" and be prepared for the Pastor's interview
- Attend practice the day before Confirmation
- Be spiritually and mentally ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

**Responsibilities of the Parents** (including but not limited to):

- Attend Confirmation Parent/Sponsor Meeting 10/10/07 at 7:30pm
- As always, provide moral and spiritual guidance and support for your child
- Lead by example - practice your Catholic faith by living a life of regular Catholic worship and Christian service to others.
- Assist your Candidate with the "Basic Information Page" and obtain copies of Baptismal and First Eucharist certificates if either sacrament was not received at St Joseph.
- Chaperone or provide transportation as needed for service projects

**Responsibilities of the Sponsors** (including but not limited to):

- Attend Confirmation Parent/Sponsor Meeting 10/10/07 at 7:30pm
- Provide moral and spiritual guidance and support for your Candidate
- Practice your Catholic faith by living a life of regular Catholic worship and Christian service to others.
- Complete, have your pastor sign/seal, and return "Certification of Sponsor Eligibility Form" by 10/10/07
- If possible, attend Confirmation Commitment Pledge Mass on 10/21/07 at 10:00am
- Attend Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Evening Event on 2/10/08 at 6:00pm
- Attend practice the day before Confirmation
- Accompany and present your Candidate at the Confirmation Mass (date TBD)

Again, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.  
This packet, along with the Community Ministry Service form and other information  
can also be found on the parish website. ([www.stjos.org](http://www.stjos.org))

# St Joseph Catholic Church

## Confirmation 2008 Basic Information Page

Date\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

Candidate's Full Name\_\_\_\_\_

Current Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Date and City of Birth\_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full Name\_\_\_\_\_

(include maiden name)

Candidate's Chosen Confirmation Name\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Full Name\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Relation to Candidate\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Home Parish\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Home Parish Address\_\_\_\_\_

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St. Joseph Church must have copies of the Confirmation Candidate's Baptism and First Eucharist (Communion) Certificates.

**A.** If Candidate WAS baptized at St. Joseph Parish:

Indicate, at least, the month and year. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** If Candidate received his/her First Eucharist at St Joseph Parish:

Indicate, at least, the month and year. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** If Candidate WAS NOT baptized at St. Joseph Parish, or did not receive his/her First Eucharist at St. Joseph Parish, you **MUST** submit copies of evidence of reception of both Sacraments **with this form.**

Return To Religious Education Office By **Wednesday, October 10, 2007**

# St Joseph Catholic Church

Confirmation 2008

## Certification of Sponsor Eligibility Form

If the Sponsor is a St. Joseph, Beltsville, Parishioner then Check Here \_\_\_\_\_  
and complete only PART B.

If the Sponsor is not a St. Joseph, Beltsville, Parishioner, complete Parts A and B

### PART A

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_(Sponsor) is a member in good standing of this parish  
and is qualified to act as a sponsor for \_\_\_\_\_(Candidate) for his/her  
Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Parish, Beltsville Maryland.

Affix  
Parish seal

Priest \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY MUST BE CERTIFIED ONLY BY THE SPONSOR'S PARISH**

### PART B

#### SPONSOR STATEMENT

I am aware of the duties and responsibilities of sponsorship, and am willing and able to sponsor  
\_\_\_\_\_(Candidate) for Confirmation at St. Joseph Parish, Beltsville, Maryland.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Relationship to Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return To Religious Education Office By **Wednesday, October 10, 2007**  
St Joseph Catholic Church, 11007 Montgomery Road, Beltsville, MD 20707

## Requirements For Confirmation Sponsors

Pursuant to the Sacramental Norms and Policies of the Archdiocese of Washington (January 1995):

1. Sponsors must be confirmed, practicing Catholics at least 16 years old.
2. To express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation, and to make the duty and function of the Sponsor more effective, it is desirable that the Godparent at Baptism be the Sponsor at Confirmation.
3. Individual Sponsors should be obtained. One Sponsor may serve one or two Candidates.
4. According to the directives of Canons 893 and 874 ("Canon Law") neither the father nor the mother of the Candidate may be the Sponsor. (Similarly, a stepparent should not serve as Sponsor.)

### **St. Joseph Parish requires completion of a *Certification of Sponsor Eligibility form***

The Confirmation Candidate should consider the following when choosing a Sponsor:

- Does the possible Sponsor truly want to be a Sponsor?
- Does the possible Sponsor live close enough to meet with the Confirmation Candidate regularly, and to conveniently attend any Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor events, including the Confirmation practice, and the Confirmation ceremony?
- Is the possible Sponsor a practicing Catholic, formally registered in a parish, living a life of regular Catholic worship and Christian service to others?
- Will the possible Sponsor be able to guide and challenge the Confirmation Candidate to be a real Christian?

### **Definitions Of A Confirmation Sponsor**

*(For the Candidate and to be shared with the Sponsor)*

A Sponsor really wants to be a Sponsor.

A Sponsor is a representative of the worldwide and local Church.

A Sponsor is a witness to her/his own faith and to the Candidate's readiness for Confirmation.

A Sponsor is a companion on the Candidate's journey to the Father's House.

A Sponsor is a model for committed Catholic living.

A Sponsor is a coach who teaches and encourages for the easy wins and the hard losses.

### **Good Traits Of A Sponsor**

A Sponsor proactively and regularly contacts the Candidate.

A Sponsor prays for and with the Candidate.

A sponsor listens when the Candidate wants to talk.

A Sponsor serves as a bridge for the Candidate between childhood and young-adulthood in the Church.

A Sponsor gives freedom to the Candidate to express hopes, doubts and fears

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## Why Is Choosing A Name Important?

A simple definition of the word "name" is a word by which a person is known.

But a "name" can also:

- Be a mere designation (*He was a ruler in name only*)
- Imply something that a person is said to be (*to call a person names*)
- Signify a persons reputation (*to protect one's good name, or to make a name for oneself*)
- Provide identification with a group of people (*a family name, or race, or religion*)
- Used in a way that it implies an appeal (*In the name of the Father, etc.*)

To give a *name* to something or someone has always been important and meaningful in Scripture:

- In the Old Testament, the first man, whom God names Adam (of The earth), was given the privilege of naming all the animals because he had dominion over them (Book of Genesis).
- The Angel Gabriel told Zechariah to name his son John (Luke 1:13).
- Mary's son was given the name of Jesus, which He was called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb (Luke 1:31).
- Jesus himself changed the name of Simon to Peter (Matthew 16:18).

All these above names have special meanings. All names have. The privilege of naming expresses a privileged relationship between namer and named.

At Baptism you were received first in the Church by your name being called, and you were made holy with the Lord's own name ( "NAME, *I baptize you in the name of the Father, etc*".)

Your parents gave you your *name*. Your *name* may have been a name of a saint, that is one who led a life committed to the Lord and constantly sought to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Even God calls each one of us by name (John 10:3).

Every time you begin your prayers, you do so with the Sign of the Cross, In the name... Scripture encourages us to call upon the name of the Lord.

Everyone's *name* is sacred. A *name* is the icon (a picture, image, or representation) of a person. It demands respect as a sign of dignity of the one who bears it.

# *Choosing a Confirmation Name and Saint's Name Report*

*Due to Religious Education Office by Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

For Confirmation, you are asked to choose a NAME, particularly one that honors a saint. Ask this saint to be your patron/patroness to help you to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and afterwards be your helpmate in your Christian journey. You can honor this saint through prayer and imitation.

Do some research on the life of your saint. A worksheet is included with this letter to help you gather information about your saint. Then pretend you are the saint's biographer and write a summary of your saint's life story. Include the years when they lived and died, their feastday, and why you chose their name.

Your report should be a minimum of one page - typed. With your report, include a cover page which should include the name of the saint at the top of the page, a 5"x7" "picture" of the saint in the middle of the page, and your name in the lower right-hand corner. The picture can be any artistic rendering of the saint – an icon, a drawing, a photo. It can be a graphic downloaded from the internet, clipped from a magazine, photocopied, or even drawn by you or an artistic friend. Most saints are depicted holding a certain item, or with some specific characteristic. If you create a picture yourself, make sure to stick to his or her characteristics. You may add that information to your report if you want to. Staple your cover page to your report in the upper left-hand corner.

Web site sources

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/saints/>

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.asp>

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/index.html>

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## *Saint's Name Report – Outline/Worksheet*

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The Saint whose name I have chosen for the Sacrament of Confirmation, and I choose to pray to and imitate is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Saint's feast day is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Saint lived (dates): \_\_\_\_\_

My Saint lived (dates): \_\_\_\_\_

What three events in the life of this saint most impress you? Why?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What three special virtues did your chosen patron saint have? (a virtue is a good habit that enables a person to act with moral excellence, according to God's will)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what two ways was this saint most like Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Today, how could you follow this saint in your daily life? Be specific. Give 3 examples:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I chose this Confirmation name because: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Summarize or list five key events in your saint's life story:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Now – write your saint's report.**

Pretend you are the saint's biographer and write a summary of your saint's life story. Include the years when they lived and died, their feast day, and why you chose their name.

Your report should be a minimum of one page - typed. With your report, include a cover page which should include the name of the saint at the top of the page, a 5"x7" "picture" of the saint in the middle of the page, and your name in the lower right-hand corner. The picture can be any artistic rendering of the saint – an icon, a drawing, a photo. It can be a graphic downloaded from the internet, clipped from a magazine, photocopied, or even drawn by you or an artistic friend. Most saints are depicted holding a certain item, or with some specific characteristic. If you create a picture yourself, make sure to stick to his or her characteristics. You may add that information to your report if you want to. Staple your cover page to your report in the upper left-hand corner.