

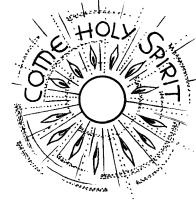
ST. ROSE OF LIMA
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

38 Church Hill Road
Newtown, CT 06470

203-426-2333
strosechurch.com

Oct. 15, 2023

St. Rose of Lima Parish
Faith Formation Office
38 Church Hill Road
Newtown, CT 06470
(203) 426-2333 ext. 2



Dear Confirmation Candidate and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Confirmation program! It is our hope that this will be an enjoyable, memorable, Spirit-filled process for you and your families. Through regular weekly attendance of classes, Masses, service projects, youth group events, retreat, the Candlelight Mass and ultimately at your Confirmation ceremony, the opportunities for prayer and fellowship with Christ and friends are many!

The Pink Confirmation Application, required Baptismal and First Communion Certificates (if you did NOT receive these sacraments at St Rose of Lima), your Sponsor's Certificate, and Confirmation Name, are due in the Religious Education Office by Dec. 5, 2023.

Any missing information should be filled in prior to returning to me.

Confirmation certificates will be given and entry into Confirmation Registry will be made only if all paperwork is completed and returned, and you have attended required events (per Diocesan guidelines).

Please read the enclosed information carefully and thoroughly and keep in a safe place. Please review all the due dates and dates for required activities and put on your calendar so that you schedule ample time to complete all paperwork and avoid conflicts. **Additionally, I highly suggest that you make copies of all the completed forms, including service hours, and maintain them until Confirmation is complete.**

If you have any questions, please call me in the Religious Education Office. I look forward to journeying with your family as you complete your Sacraments of Initiation by receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. This is the beginning of your choice to live within the will of God each day of your life.

God Bless

Mary Craig
Confirmation Coordinator, Grades 4-8

Guidelines for Preparing to Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. Attendance and participation at weekend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation

There is nothing more important in life than receiving our Living Christ at Mass every week. Through the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist, hearts and minds are opened and nourished to receive Christ through hearing His Word and receiving His Body and Blood. The Mass is essential in helping us grow in our personal relationship with Christ and living each day with passion and purpose.

2. Attendance at Weekly in Person Classes

Like any formational experience – attendance and participation are vital to learning. Students with more than three unexcused absences and/or uncompleted assignments, will be asked to reflect on their desire to be Confirmed at this time, or whether they may need another year to spend in preparation. Attendance and assignments are *that* important!

3. Attitude

A positive attitude toward Church, class, and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is essential. Mutual respect for catechists and fellow classmates is expected. *Christ is present in everyone.*

4. Application for Confirmation (Form attached to folder-Due Dec. 5th)

All student information needed for the Confirmation Registry that we currently have in our computer system can be found on this form. Please check carefully, correct anything needed, fill in any blanks, attach Baptismal and First Communion certificates if information is not already on the form, attach Sponsor certificate, and return to catechist or Religious Education Office by December 5th.

- Student's first name as you would like it to appear on the certificate. Should be the full name given at Baptism.
- Parent's names, and Student Baptism and First Communion information is needed for Parish Registry. Please check carefully. **(Please ensure that Mother's maiden name is included on Sacramental Information Form)**
- **If the Month, day, and the year** the Sacraments were celebrated is not shown on the Information Form, then certificate copies are necessary and should be attached to the **Information Form**. Confirmation certificates can only be issued if paperwork is handed in because this information is necessary for parish and diocesan registries.
- Sponsor's name, parish and a completed Sponsor Certificate, (signed and sealed by Pastor) should be attached to the Information Form and returned to the Religious Education Office by **December 5th**. St. Rose Sponsors do not need the Pastor's signature, however the Sponsor must sign certificate, accepting responsibility for this role.

5. **Confirmation Name (Due Dec. 5)**

What a wonderful opportunity to choose a name for yourself! The saint or scriptural holy person you decide as your Patron Saint in Confirmation is very significant. Many of you have already chosen your Confirmation name through the Saint's project you created in seventh grade. However, if you were not a part of our St. Rose Religious Education program at that time, or if you have chosen a different name, research that saint. Learn about your saint's life, virtues, strengths, and how he/she demonstrated faith in Jesus Christ. You are inviting this saint to be a part of your faith journey for the rest of your life. The Confirmation name chosen should be written clearly in the appropriate blank at the top of the Sacramental Information Form. If you would like to change your name from the one listed on the form, please cross it out and write in your preferred Confirmation name. Forms without a Confirmation Name listed will have their Baptismal name assigned. **Confirmation names cannot be changed after January 31st, 2024.**

Sponsor (Due Dec. 5)

Choosing a sponsor should be made with prayerful consideration. A sponsor is a *practicing Catholic* who supports the candidate in the teaching of the faith, not only in this Sacramental preparation, but also into adult life. (Please refer to the Confirmation Guidelines & Certificate for detailed eligibility criteria for sponsorship.)

6. **Faith-in-Action Service Activities (Due during class the week of March 4, 2024)**

Prayerfully consider the special talents and abilities God has given you. Use these talents to volunteer your time in a Christ-like way by helping others. **Important: The Diocesan Confirmation Preparation program requires that you complete at least 15 hours toward your personal life-long service.**

- On the enclosed *Faith In Action Service Log*, please list any service projects you have completed after June 1st, 2023.
- Once you have offered 15 hours of service, parent and student should sign the service log and then return it to your catechist no later than the week of March 4, 2024.

It is our hope that when you use your gifts and talents to serve others in the community, you find the meaning and importance of using your gifts and chrisms to put your *faith into action*, which should continue into your adult life.

8. **Confirmation Attire**

Students will be required to wear white robes. Robes will be ordered early on and will be yours to keep as a remembrance of this special day. Please make sure to include your child's height in the spot provided in the Application for Confirmation. Sponsors should dress as they would for any special *church* occasion. Remember that you will be kneeling in front of the Bishop.

9. **Picture Taking/Videography**

In keeping with the solemnity of this celebration, pictures and/or videography are not to be allowed during the Mass and during the Anointing. There will be an opportunity to take pictures with the Bishop and Monsignor Bob after the ceremony.

Confirmation Reflection Assignment

Due Date – February 27, 2024

Through these final preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation - - - Ask yourself; “Why am I here?” “Why do I desire to confirm my own faith?” “How will my life be affected by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?” “Have my eyes and heart been open to others through my Faith-In- Action Service offering?”

Your Assignment: On a separate sheet of paper, please type a one full-page reflection detailing your experiences of your Confirmation preparation. Please use the questions below to guide your paper.

- Why have you decided to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church?
- Is this your decision?
- After experiencing the 8th Grade retreat, how has your faith changed?
- You sacrificed your time and talent by serving others; how has your heart been opened to the needs of our community?
- God has a divine plan for your life. How can you tap into His plan on a day-to-day basis and use the gifts and talents He has given you to bring His message of love and forgiveness to others?
- How can the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit be used as tools in your new life as a fully practicing mature Catholic?
- In what ways can your parents and sponsor support your spiritual growth, and what options have you discussed with them?

Whether it is an essay or other creative means – this assignment is to be completed **after** the Confirmation retreat, and is due to your catechist **no later** than the week of February 27, 2024. Be sure to include your name and your catechist name.

Confirmation Rehearsals and Ceremony Dates

These dates to be determined once we are notified by the Bishop’s office.

All questions can be directed to Mary Craig, Confirmation Coordinator/Grades 7-8, at the Religious Education Office, 426-2333, ext. 2 or e-mail at sacraments@strosechurch.com.

The complete Confirmation Packet will be available on the parish website with additional parish information at www.strosechurch.com.

Confirmation Sponsor Information 2023 – 2024

Sponsor Responsibilities

“Sponsor” is the traditional name for the person who walks with a candidate on his/her Confirmation journey. *The sponsor works as a representative of the church, welcomes the candidate and helps the candidate to see his/her important role in the church community.* According to the Apostolic Constitution on the Sacrament of Confirmation there are three activities required of sponsors:

✚ *Sponsors bring candidates to receive the Sacrament.*

✚ *Present them to the Bishop for the anointing.*

✚ *Help them fulfill their baptismal promises.*

Prayerful consideration is to be made in choosing a sponsor, as there is responsibility. He/she is to be a positive example of the Catholic Christian faith by the way he/she lives and the values he/she embraces. A sponsor also promises to support the candidate by prayer.

Open your heart to God and ask Him if there is anyone who might be being called back to the Church through YOU! God never turns His people away. He may be asking you to invite someone back into a relationship with Him and the Catholic faith community.

The below guidelines for sponsors are according to Catholic Church Law (Canon Law)

and followed by the Diocese of Bridgeport:

1. A sponsor must have celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
2. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. A sponsor is a practicing Catholic: Attends Mass regularly on Saturdays/Sundays, on Holy Days of Obligation, and receives the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance on a regular basis.
4. A sponsor, if married, was married according to the laws of the Church.
5. A sponsor is to support the candidate in the teaching of the faith, not only in Sacramental preparation, but into adult life.
6. A sponsor must be a Baptized and Confirmed Catholic in good standing and a registered member of their parish.
7. A sponsor **may not** be the candidate's parent, and parents **may not** act as proxies on the day of Confirmation. Parents already have an important faith role in their child's life.
8. Godparents, Grandparents, or older siblings are acceptable sponsors provided they meet the aforementioned criteria.
9. A sponsor who attends Saint Rose of Lima, needs to be a registered, practicing member of the Church. Call the rectory office for this information if needed.
10. A sponsor who is not a registered parishioner at Saint Rose must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from his/he own parish, signed and sealed by the Pastor.

Why Are There Faith-In-Action Service Hours?

Jesus did not come to earth to sit back and relax, but to take action and serve!
He gave us an example of LOVE & SERVICE; Jesus even washed the Disciples feet!

Serving others gives us an opportunity to reach out to God's people whether it be in the Parish Community, with our family, friends, our local town and even the world. It only takes one person to change a life!

Keep in mind your gifts, talents and passions as choose your service hours and activities that you will complete. Serving in an area that you are passionate about will bless your experience and draw you closer to Christ and His people!

Your Task:

- Find something that sparks your interest!
- Do you like to play board games? If so, play games with the elderly or shut ins!
- Do you like being outdoors? Find some service helping out in someone's yard.
 - Look in the Parish Bulletin for ideas.
- Read the Newtown Bee for upcoming activities where volunteers may be needed.
 - Sign up to be a Catechist Aide.
- Look in the Fairfield County Catholic for Service opportunities or Charities.
- Most importantly: Get CREATIVE, Have FUN, and remember WHO you are serving...
Jesus Christ and His People!



“... The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve
And to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Confirmation... In a Nut-Shell!

Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The bishop sings or recites the solemn prayer for the seven gifts of the Spirit. You will use these gifts for the rest of your life.

COME

The Laying on of Hands

The ancient gesture of the laying on of hands is a common biblical symbol by which the blessing and power of God are transmitted from one person to another. The Bishop extends his hands over you at Confirmation!

HOLY

Chrism Oil

Oil is a symbol of strength & joy. When you are anointed with this oil on your forehead, you are consecrated and set apart for God!

The Sealing

The bishop says these words during the anointing:
"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

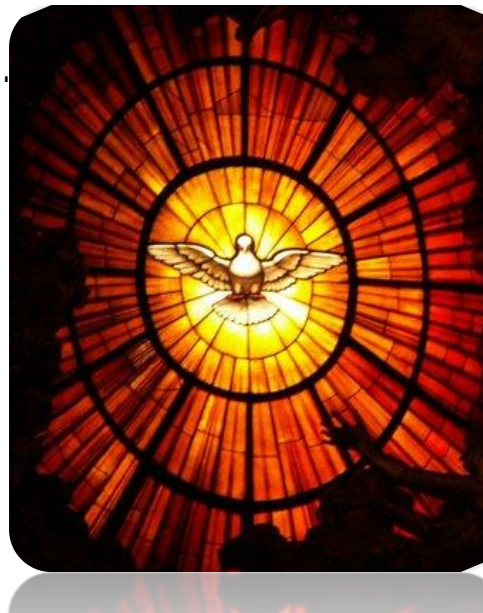
SPIRIT

Sponsor

Your Confirmation sponsor is a role model of faith for you and the community! They represent the entire community in welcoming the confirmed into an advanced membership in the church.

Confirmation Name/Saint

Your Confirmation Saint will be praying for you for the REST OF YOUR LIFE helping you get to heaven! This Saint will walk with you until eternity.



The Christian Community: The people who gather to celebrate Confirmation are themselves an important symbol. These people - our parents, sponsors, mentors, relatives, and fellow parishioners - *are* the church.



Amen: Your response at Mass or in prayer with the word, **AMEN** sums up your desire

The Bishop: The Bishop (or his representative) who presides over the celebration of Confirmation is the symbol of the universal church. Each Bishop is a follower of the Apostles!

The Sacraments of Initiation & The Gifts!

Baptism is the FIRST Sacrament that you receive when you become a child of God and welcomed into the Catholic Christian Community!

First Eucharist: This Sacrament is where you receive the Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity of Jesus Christ each week at Mass in the form of bread & wine! This is the second Sacrament of Initiation

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom: The ability to see things as they truly are in an open-minded manner.

Understanding: The sensitivity needed to accept, care, listen, understand, and forgive.

Right Judgment: The ability to make good and wise decisions.

Knowledge: The ability to comprehend the truths of the universe.

Courage: The strength to do what is right in spite of challenges.

Reverence: A deep respect for God, for others, and for all creation.

Wonder & Awe In God's Presence: A sense of the greatness and majesty of God coupled with a deep realization of God's nearness.

Confirmation strengthens and equips you to share & spread your faith with others! You are now a FULL member of the Catholic Church. During the Confirmation ceremony you are asked to say "yes" to the promises made for you by your parents at Baptism. This is your final Sacrament of Initiation.



CONFIRMATION REVIEW QUESTIONS

Asked by the Bishop during the Confirmation ceremonies. Share these questions with your Sponsor!

1) What is a sacrament?

It is an outward sign of an inward grace conferred by the Holy Spirit and instituted by Christ.

It is a community celebration of the mysteries of salvation and of the church. Sacraments use signs that bring us God's Grace.

Its purpose is to sanctify, build up the Body of Christ, and give worship to God. Because they are signs they also instruct. By words and objects they nourish, strengthen, and express faith. CCC.1123

2) How many sacraments are there? Seven

What are they?	Three sacraments of initiation:	Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation
	Two sacraments of healing:	Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
	Two sacraments of service:	Matrimony, Holy Orders

3) What is the first sacrament you receive?

Baptism

What other sacraments have you already received?

Reconciliation and Eucharist

Which two sacraments are being celebrated on the day of Confirmation?

Eucharist and Confirmation

4) What is the outward sign of Baptism?

Water

5) What happens when you are baptized?

Original sin is removed and you become united with Jesus in His death and resurrection.

6) Where did original sin come from?

When Adam and Eve turned away from God.

7) What else does Baptism do for you?

Incorporates us into the Body of Christ by conferring us with an indelible seal (chrism oil is used as the outward sign of this seal.)

Unifies us with Christ and his death and resurrection (submersion and emerging through the water)

Become members of the church – part of the people of God

Conveys and exercise of freedom or free will – we have a choice – parents said yes for us

8) What life do we share in after Baptism?

The life of faith. We share in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus after Baptism.

9) What part of you does God live in?

God lives in every part of me - my body and my soul.

10) Is your soul real?

Yes, it is the part of me, given to me by God when I was created, that will live with Him forever.

11) What is the outward sign of Confirmation?

The anointing with Chrism oil and the Laying on of hands.

12) What is Chrism?

Consecrated oil used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

13) What do you receive as a result of being Confirmed?

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

14) How many Gifts are there? Seven

What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Wisdom	Understanding	Right Judgment	(Counsel)
Knowledge	Courage (Fortitude)	Reverence (Piety)	
Wonder & Awe in God's Presence (Fear of the Lord)			

15) What does the Holy Spirit do for you and whom do you become like?

The Holy Spirit commissions me to carry out the mission of Jesus and His Body, the Church.
I do my best to become more like Jesus.

16) When you receive Eucharist, what is the outward sign? Bread and wine

17) What happens to the bread and wine during Eucharist?

It becomes the body and blood of Christ (transubstantiation – changes form)

18) Who enables the Priest to transubstantiate (change) the bread and wine?

The Holy Spirit

What is the term used to ask (invoke) the Holy Spirit to make the change from bread and wine to body and blood?

Epiclesis

19) What are the 10 Commandments?

The Law given to Moses by God as a seal to his covenant of love between God and His chosen people. They are a revelation of God's holy will for his people.

- 1) I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods before me.
- 2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- 3) Keep holy the Sabbath day.
- 4) Honor your father and 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 anything that belongs to your neighbor.

20) What is the Apostles Creed and why is it important to know?

It is the Catholic prayer, which defines each of the central beliefs of our faith. It is important to know so that we are able to tell others about what we believe as Catholics.

I believe in God, the father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again.
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit.
The holy Catholic Church
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting, Amen.

