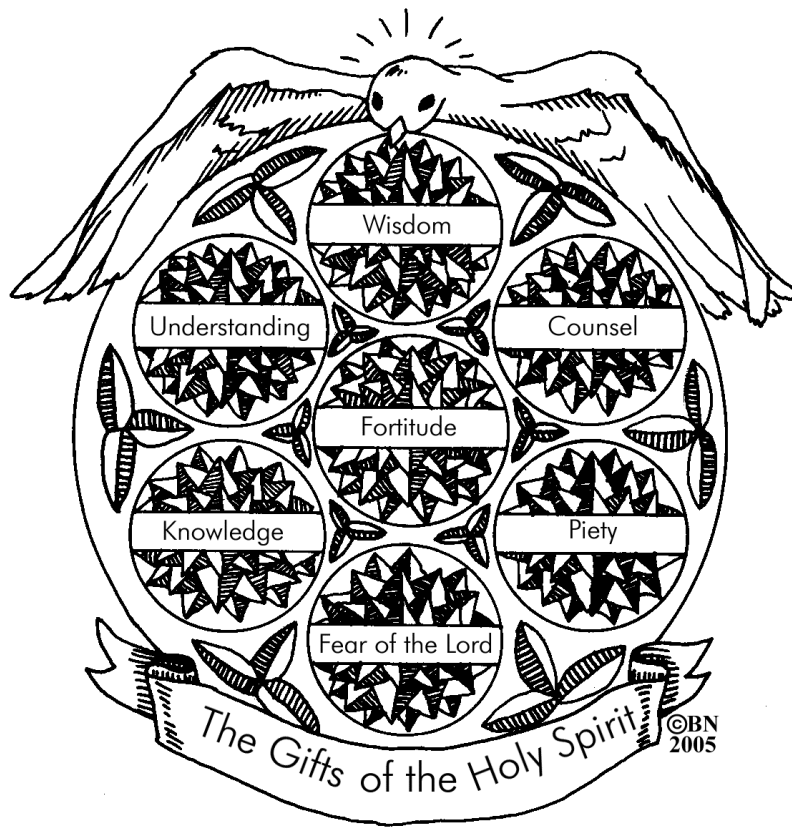


Confirmation Candidate Checklist



St. Bernard of Clairvaux
500 Route 22 East
Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807
(908) 725-0552

Confirmation Candidate Checklist

1. Mass Attendance Sign In
2. Attendance at Confirmation gatherings for parents and students
3. Copy of Baptismal Certificate (including those children baptized at St. Bernard's)
4. Completed Sponsor Form with Sponsor's Pastor Signature & Parish Seal

****Please begin considering who your child's sponsor will be. Please review the Sponsor Guidelines provided in this document to guide you.**

5. Confirmation Information Sheet
6. Attendance at Confirmation Retreat

Appendix A: Candidate Letter of Request to Monsignor Randy

Appendix B: Completed 20 hours of Stewardship Service

Appendix C: Saint Poster & Selection of Confirmation Saint Name

Appendix D: Sponsor Guidelines

Appendix A

Letter of Request for the Sacrament of Confirmation Guidelines

When writing your letter to Monsignor Randy, please follow the guidelines below:

1. The letter should be a formal request for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - * It should be typed or written carefully (no erasures or crossing out of words)
 - * The letter should be addressed to Monsignor Randy Vashon
2. The letter should contain the following:
 - * A statement of the reason for desiring the Sacrament of Confirmation
 - * An explanation of what the Sacrament of Confirmation means to you and your family
3. The letter must be handed in to the Office of Catechetical Formation.
We will give the letters to Monsignor Randy after they have been recorded in our office.

APPENDIX B

STEWARDSHIP LOG SHEET

Number of Hours (must total 20)	(1) Identify the service provided, (2) whether it is a Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy, and (3) explain its relationship to the Works of Mercy
<i>SAMPLE</i> <i>1 HOUR</i>	<i>I assisted with Donut Sunday by helping to set up the tables, keep them stocked with donuts and juices, and cleaned up after it ended; this a an example of a Spiritual Work of Mercy because I am helping to bring our parish together as a community of Catholic Christian faith</i>

APPENDIX C

SAINT POSTER REQUIREMENTS for Confirmation Candidates

Selecting a patron saint through the Sacrament of Confirmation is an important decision that should be made with great care. The saint you choose will be a model for how to live a heroic, virtuous, and holy life on earth . . . a life that is intended to lead you to eternal communion with Jesus and the saints in heaven.

The following steps will guide you through this process. *On page 2, there is a sample poster for your reference.*

GETTING STARTED: STEP 1

As you reflect on which saint's name you would like to choose, carefully consider the following paths of choosing a saint name for Confirmation:

- Ask your parents to share with you the date of your Baptism. If you aren't sure, we can help you with that too!

For example, if your Baptism date is October 22, the saints who share that feast day are: John Paul II, Mark, Phillip, Mary Salome, and others.

- You may also choose to consider the name of a saint whose feast day falls on your birthday.

For example, if your birthday is March 19, that is the feast of St. Joseph the Carpenter, Jesus' foster father.

- Saints act as our patrons for certain causes or vocations. Research their lives, home countries, and special causes that you connect with.

For example, St. Jude is a powerful intercessor and patron of impossible causes. St. Anthony of Padua is the patron of the poor. St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of military soldiers and St. Francis De Sales is the patron of teachers. St. Cecilia is the patroness of musicians and St. Luke is the patron saint of artists and doctors.

- We have a small selection of books about the lives of saints in the office that you are welcome to borrow or use one of the following websites to search for saints:
 - www.catholic.org;_or
 - www.catholiconline.org;_or
 - www.newadvent.org

DESIGNING YOUR POSTER: STEP 2

After gathering information about your chosen saint, you can begin to design your poster.

Here's what should be included in your poster (see the example on page 2):

1. **SIZE:** Posters should be no bigger than 11 inches wide by 17 inches high.
2. **PAPER:** please use cover weight paper or poster board. You may use paper from our resource room.
3. **WHAT YOU SHOULD INCLUDE:**
 - A. **SAINT NAME:** should appear at the top of the poster in a colored banner. If your saint is a martyr of the Church, your banner should be red. For all other saints, you may choose any color.
 - B. **FEAST DAY:** just beneath the saint's name, include your saint's feast day.
 - C. **IMAGE:** choose an inspiring image of your saint, measuring about 5x7 inches. You may draw one or use an image you find.
 - D. **ORIGIN:** underneath the saint's image, include the saint's year of birth and death and the country where he or she was born.
 - E. **SPECIAL DESIGNATION:** If your saint is a Doctor of the Church, Apostle, Priest or Religious, Bishop or Martyr, please list those titles above the image.
 - F. ***In your own words,*** please write one short paragraph about why you have chosen this saint as your patron, addressing **all three of these questions:**
 - a. *Why is this saint so inspiring to you?*
 - b. *Why are this saint's virtues so meaningful to you?*
 - c. *Describe at least one way that you can demonstrate this virtue in your own life. Be specific!*
 - G. **QUOTE:** include a quote from the writings or teachings of this saint that is special or meaningful to you.
 - H. **VIRTUES:** include a bullet list of some of the virtues that helped your saint on their journey.
 - I. **YOUR NAME:** write your first and last name on the bottom left corner of your poster.

SAINT NAME

Feast Day: Month and Day

Titles of the Church, i.e., Doctor of the Church, Patron

“Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.”

Saint's Virtues

List in bullet points a few of the qualities or virtues this saint demonstrated...

- Virtue
- Virtue
- Virtue



Caption for portrait of Saint that includes date of birth and death. (1347-1380)

In your paragraph, answer these questions:

- *Why is this saint so inspiring to you?*
- *Why are this saint's virtues so meaningful to you?*
- *Describe at least one way that you can demonstrate this virtue in your own life. Be specific!*

Your First Name and Last Name

APPENDIX D

SPONSOR GUIDELINES

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation. The sponsor is a role model of what it means to be Catholic, a follower of Christ, in their daily lives. Ideally, the sponsor for Confirmation should be the godparent from Baptism, provided he or she meets the guidelines below. If it is not possible to choose a godparent as a sponsor, then someone else who is an example of a committed, practicing Catholic should be selected.

Sponsor Guidelines:

- ◇ Must be 16 years old
- ◇ Confirmed in the Catholic Church
- ◇ Practicing the Catholic Faith through weekly attendance at Mass
- ◇ Receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- ◇ Validly married in the Catholic Church (Note: a person who has married outside of the Church or divorced and remarried without an annulment may **not** be considered to serve as a sponsor)
- ◇ Able to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from the parish they are registered in and attending (if sponsor is a parishioner of St. Bernard, he/she must get their certificate signed and sealed by the Pastor – **not** Religious Ed. office)
- ◇ Candidates may select a sponsor of either gender.

Note: *Parents already have the role of raising and supporting their children in the Faith and, therefore, parents are not eligible to be sponsors (or proxies) for Confirmation.*

Prayer for Choosing a Sponsor

Holy Spirit, helper and guide, give me wisdom as I choose my Confirmation sponsor. Help me to choose a person of prayer who will teach me to be a person of prayer; who will support me in difficult times; who will guide me to make good choices; and who will challenge me when I do not. Help me to choose someone who will love me and teach me to love Jesus.

Thank you for giving me a community of people around me to support and guide me as I take this important step in becoming more fully a member of Your Church.
Amen.