

St, Cletus Religious Education Office

700 W. 55th St.- LaGrange, Il. 60525
(708) 352-2383 www.stcletusparish.com

October, 2013

Dear Confirmation Parents and Sponsors,

Parents, please join with your child and his/her sponsor to participate in the 11:00 Mass, Sunday, November 3rd. Sponsors, congratulations on being chosen to join your Confirmation candidate on his/her journey toward Confirmation! On November 3rd at the 11:00am Mass, we will recognize the St. Cletus Confirmation candidates. We will reserve seats on the center aisles for the candidates, their parents and sponsors.

The candidates will publicly present themselves to the parish community as they continue to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation. Family members are asked to show their support for their candidate by signing the "Family Covenant Form" and by attending Mass with their teen. The candidate also submits a signed Covenant form.

Following Mass, the candidates and sponsors will proceed to Morrissey Hall for a meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the sponsor and the candidate with an opportunity to interact on a **faith** level. You will have time for private conversation that will focus on each person's faith journey and his/her experience following Jesus. By participating in this meeting, you will support and encourage your candidate as he/she moves toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.

What an honor it is to be a sponsor! We asked the young people to choose a sponsor based on the following:

A sponsor is a confirmed practicing Catholic who acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with the sacrament.

A sponsor practices the Catholic faith attending Sunday Mass and living a life of prayer and good works after the pattern of Jesus Christ. A sponsor cannot be a parent of the candidate and must be at least 16 years of age.

We hope you see your commitment as a sponsor to be one of listening with respect and then helping your candidate to analyze and clarify his/her values and beliefs and to develop an openness to the signs of the Spirit working in his/her life.

Enclosed you will find a sponsor checklist and more information about your role on Confirmation day. Please take a minute to read it over before the sponsor meeting. We will go over the "Blessing by Sponsors" at the end of the sponsor meeting.

May God bless you now and in the future as you continue to support and encourage a life of faith in your candidate as you journey toward Confirmation together.

Sincerely,

Paulette Bolton - Director of Parish Catechesis

Candidate Covenant Form

1. *I understand that deciding to continue in the Confirmation Preparation Program is an important decision requiring study and participation.*
2. *I will do my best to take this decision seriously. I will participate and support my companions on this journey by asking questions and by sharing my thoughts and opinions when asked. I will strive to be as truthful as possible in my words and actions.*
3. *I have been told about and understand that a retreat is required. I agree to meet this requirement.*
4. *I understand that if I am going to miss a learning session, it is I who will contact my Teacher, or Catechist. Because of the importance of all the learning sessions, I also understand that if I miss two sessions, I will need to contact the Coordinator at once to discuss possible make-up activities for completing the requirements before the day of Confirmation.*
5. *I have been informed of, understand, and agree to the Ministry portion of the program.*
6. *I will do my best to pray every day to encourage my growth in and understanding of the Holy Spirit. Further, I will make every effort to participate in Mass each week. I understand that doing so will help me celebrate more fully the sacrament of Confirmation.*
7. *I understand that the Confirmation preparation program is entered into voluntarily, and it is taken for granted that those who attend do so because they want to. I also understand that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. If, at any time, my behavior is inappropriate, I understand that a notice will be sent to inform my parents. A second instance will result in my being dropped from the program unless a meeting is arranged with all concerned, and a solution is found.*

Date

Candidate's Signature

Family Covenant Form

We, the _____ family readily bring
Family Name

_____ forth as a Candidate for Confirmation.
Candidate's Name

1. We will support him/her in his/her endeavors to learn more about the Sacrament and the faith, and encourage him/her to live actively in our Church community.
2. We believe that Confirmation is the commitment to a lifetime effort of growing in faith and pledging to witness to that faith in our daily lives.
3. As a family, we promise to make visible our commitment to the Church in order to be a model for _____.
Candidate's Name
4. We will attend Sunday Mass. We will minister to others in need, whenever we are able.

We are signed here below on this 3rd day of November, 2013.

Each family member is asked to sign below to represent willingness to make the Confirmation journey with the Candidate.



Sponsor Checklist

Congratulations: You are about to embark on a rewarding journey to share and grow in your faith. In accepting the invitation to be a sponsor for your candidate, you are making a commitment to help him/her grow in his /her relationship with God and the church.

- Attend Sponsor meeting
- Plan 5 or more activities with your candidate to do together (more information to come at Sponsor meeting)
- Determine with your candidate the times you will meet to do your activities and faith share.
- Mark the date of Confirmation (**March 1, 2014**) on your calendar.

Additional Suggestions

- Plan to do a service project with your candidate.
- Take personal time to build your relationship with God
- Periodically attend mass with your Candidate
- If you are involved with parish ministry or outreach invite your candidate to join you.

After Confirmation

- Use e-mail or phone to continue faith sharing
- Remember and celebrate the anniversary of Confirmation.

Sponsor Certificate

*Please accept this letter as my intent to serve as a
Confirmation Sponsor for*

(print Confirmation Candidate Name)

*I understand that the role of a Confirmation Sponsor
is to support this candidate in their Catholic faith.*

*I am a baptized and confirmed Catholic myself,
active in my faith,
through frequent participation of mass
as a member of*

_____ *Catholic Church.*

*I agree to nurture and encourage faith, as well as be a present in the life of
this candidate, living as an example of our Lord, Jesus.*

Sponsor, Please Print Full Name

Signature of Sponsor