

# Confirmation Handbook

## High School Edition '11-'12



# St. Francis of Assisi



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# CONTACT INFORMATION

**ENGLISH MINISTRY CONTACTS**

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 (972) 712-2645 x232  
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**HISPANIC MINISTRY CONTACTS**

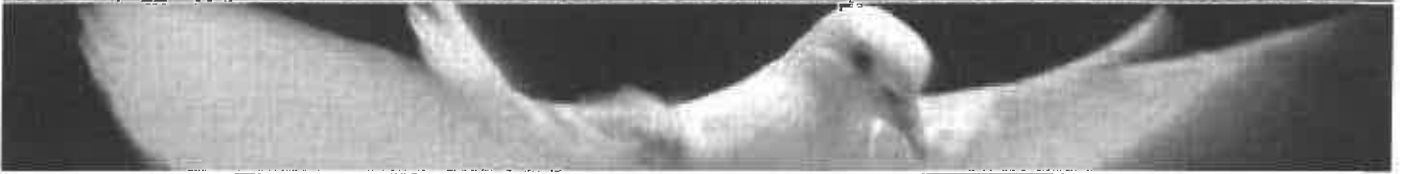
*Laura Marquez*  
**Hispanic Ministry Director**  
 (972) 712-2645 x241  
 lmarquez@stfoafrisco.org

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**Hispanic Ministry Administrator**  
 (972) 712-2645 x227  
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**ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE DIRECTED TO TAMMY OR KATHY**  
*Can hand in work to Catechist, Tammy, Kathy, or office receptionist*  
 or FAX: (972) 712-1087

# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

## SOME BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION



### ***What are the sacraments?***

“The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.” CCC 1131

This means that the sacraments were given to us by Christ. By participating in the sacraments we cooperate with God’s grace by which we are transformed and are being perfected as Children of God. Just as all children are nurtured by their parents, God nurtures his children through the sacraments.

### ***What are “efficacious signs of grace”?***

*Efficacious signs* are the visible signs that really do the thing that they signify ... such as water at baptism really cleansing the person, body and soul, thus closer uniting the person to Christ. In Confirmation the outward sign is *anointing* with chrism (oil). In the Bible those that are anointed are chosen or marked by God for some special purpose ( kings: chosen to lead God’s people). “By this anointing the confirmand receives the “mark,” the seal of the Holy Spirit.” CCC 1295



### ***Where is Confirmation talked about in the Catechism?***

Paragraph #'s 1285-1321

### ***What is the definition of Confirmation?***

Confirmation binds the Christian more perfectly to the Church and enriches them with a special strength of the Holy Spirit, that they may live in the world as a witness of Christ.

It is one of the three sacraments of initiation. Confirmation is normally the last sacrament of the three in which the person freely chooses to follow Christ in the Catholic Church and is publically marked as a member of Christ’s body. By choosing to affirm the decision of their parents in Baptism, and accepting the nourishment from Christ in the Eucharist, Confirmation marks the beginning of their adult journey of faith.

### ***Where are references to Confirmation in the Bible?***

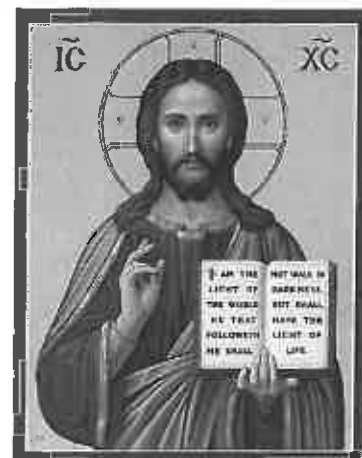
It is important to note that it is not explicitly named “Confirmation” in the Bible but the actual process of the sacrament is found in...

Acts 8:14-17

Acts 19:5-6

Promised by Christ in John 16:7 ; 7:39

Laying on of Hands listed separate from baptism Hebrews 6:2



# REQUIREMENTS

## Personal Confirmation Checklist

### Due Date: Check List

Due: October 16th:

Confirmation Form  
Baptism Certificate  
Parent Pledge

Due: December 4th:

Sponsor Registration Form,  
Sponsor Report

Due: January 8th:

Saint Report

Due: January 29th:

Letter to the Bishop

Due: February 12th:

Retreat Form  
Retreat Fee \$135/ youth

MANDATORY CONFIRMATION RETREAT March 2nd—4th @ Camp Copass

Due: March 25th:

15 Service Hours

Class Attendance (CANNOT MISS MORE THAN 4 CLASSES)

Interview MANDATORY (in class Sunday, March 25th)

Test & Rehearsal MANDATORY (all sessions in Great Hall Sunday, April 22nd 7:15PM-830PM)

**The ONLY date for Confirmation will be April 28th, 2012**

The confirmation mass is Bi-Lingual and scheduled for 7:30PM.

## Celebration of the bilingual Confirmation Mass

Our Staff has made the decision that both of our Confirmation Masses on April 28th will be primarily in English and secondarily in Spanish. We made this decision to serve the needs of both our English speaking and our Spanish speaking families. St. Francis started out as a Spanish speaking parish and we still have many Spanish speaking families. While our youth of Spanish speaking families both speak and understand English some of the parents and grandparents do not. The bilingual Mass is a pastoral necessity due to the size of both English and Spanish speaking populations. No matter your primary language we ask your respectful consideration of this Mass. Mass is Mass, no matter the language, Christ is still fully present.

The Mass will start with the Call to Worship which will be in both languages. The introductory prayers of the Mass will be in English. The First and Second Readings will alternate English and Spanish. The Gospel will be in Spanish since the Homily tends to be primarily in English. The readings that are in Spanish will be printed in English in the program and vice versa. The Eucharistic Prayer is mainly in English. The music will be chosen by Anthony D'Ambrosio our Youth Ministry Musician. Confirmation Mass, regardless of being bilingual, is always slightly longer than a typical Mass. The Mass generally lasts about an hour and a half.

We have requested for Bishop Kevin Farrell to preside over both of our Confirmation Masses. Although we are officially on his schedule, this is always subject to change. In any case, Bishop Kevin Farrell may delegate his authority to another bishop or priest.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your prayerful reflection of Christ during this time of Sacramental preparation.

Msgr. Larry Pichard

Kathy Deschaw  
972-712-2645 ext. 232  
kdeschaw@stfoafrisco.org  
Faith Formation Administrator

Tammy Weber  
972-712-2645 ext. 358  
tweber@stfoafrisco.org  
Youth Ministry Director



# **Dress Code for Confirmation**

## **Boys**

**Dress slacks**

**Dress shirt**

**Dress shoes**

**Tie**

**No jeans**

**No flip flops**

**No tennis shoes**

**Jacket/ suit is optional**

**No T-Shirts**

## **Girls**

**Dress slacks**

**Or skirt**

**Blouse**

**Or dress**

**No halter tops**

**No spaghetti straps**

**No tube tops**

**No visible shoulders**

**Or anything revealing**

**No mini skirts**

**Skirts should be no shorter  
than the knee cap.**

**No jeans**

**No flip flops**

**No Tennis shoes.**

# SFYM High School Confirmation Class Schedule 2011-12

## Sunday 7:15-8:15pm Session

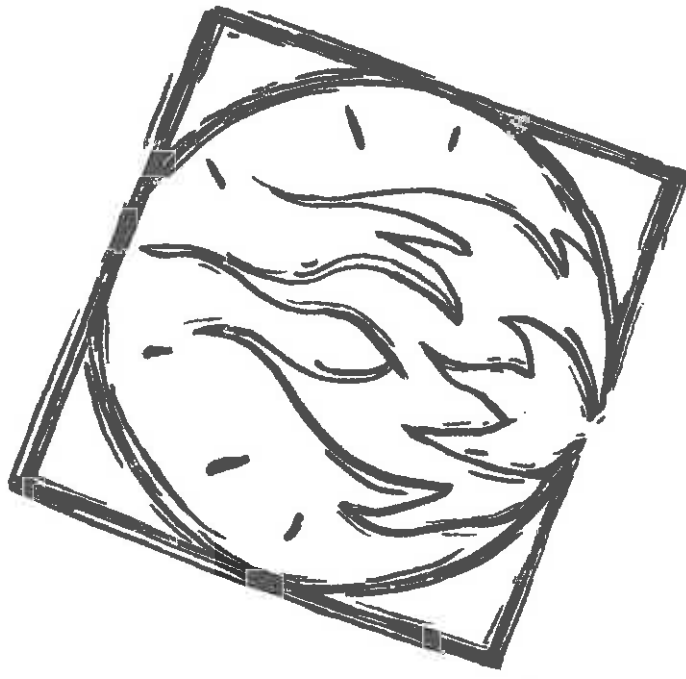
- Sept. 25  
**Introductions MEET YOUR CLASS!!!**  
 What is Confirmation? Why do I need it?  
 Review of Confirmation Handbook  
 Night on the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal  
 Parent Confirmation meeting students go to class.
- Oct. 2  
**Chapter 1: Gathering as Church**
- Oct. 9  
**Chapter 2: Proclaiming God's Word**  
*off because of WYD Events @ 6 Flags*
- Oct. 16  
**Chapter 3: Renewing Baptismal Promises**
- Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**Chapter 3: Renewing Baptismal Promises**
- Oct. 30  
**Chapter 4: Laying on of Hands**  
*off because of Thanksgiving*
- Nov. 6  
**Chapter 4: Laying on of Hands**  
*off because of Thanksgiving*
- Nov. 13  
**Chapter 5: Anointing with Chrism**
- Nov. 20  
**Chapter 5: Anointing with Chrism**  
*off because of Christmas*
- Nov. 27  
**Chapter 5: Anointing with Chrism**  
*off because of Christmas*
- Dec. 4  
**The Eucharist**
- Dec. 11  
**The Eucharist**
- Dec. 18  
**The Eucharist**
- Dec. 25  
**The Eucharist**
- January 1<sup>st</sup>  
**REDONKAPALOOZA!!! Concert in the Great Hall**
- Jan 8  
**The Eucharist**
- Jan 15  
**The Eucharist**
- Jan 22  
**The Eucharist**
- Jan 29  
**The Eucharist**
- Feb. 5  
**The Eucharist**
- Feb. 12  
**The Eucharist**
- Jan. 19  
**Adoration in Great Hall. All Youth Ministry classes including High School Confirmation.**
- Feb. 26  
**Chapter 6: Exchanging the Gift of Peace**
- March 2-4  
**MANDATORY CONFIRMATION High School Retreat is March 2-4<sup>th</sup>.**
- March 11  
**off because of Spring Break**
- March 18  
**off because of Spring Break**
- March 25  
**Confirmation Interview Still hold class but students come out in the hall for their interview**
- April 1  
**Chapter 8: Sending forth on Mission**
- April 8  
**off because of Easter**
- April 15  
**off because of Easter**
- April 22  
**Confirmation Test Review held in all classes by the teachers**
- April 28<sup>th</sup>  
**All Confirmation Candidates meet in Great Hall at 7:15PM for Test and Rehearsal**
- May 6<sup>th</sup>  
**Confirmation Mass at 7:30PM for High School Confirmation Students**
- Join Mainstream High School Group for Party at Main Event for bowling laser tag and pizza (Must turn in forms and payment)

**GOT CALENDAR QUESTIONS???**

**CONTACT TAMMY x358 or KATHY x232**

[tweber@stfrancisco.org](mailto:tweber@stfrancisco.org)

[kdeschaw@stfrancisco.org](mailto:kdeschaw@stfrancisco.org)



# Confirmation Retreat '12

March 2nd - 4th 2012

**Retreat Fee \$135**

Checks payable to SFYM  
or pay online  
[www.stfoafrisco.org](http://www.stfoafrisco.org)

**Form due Sun. Feb 12th w/ payment**

**If you cannot attend this retreat you MUST inform us before  
January 30th so you can make your own arrangements  
for a different retreat**



@ Camp Copass

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

**Got Questions?**

**Contact Kathy or Tammy**

**x232**

**x358**

**(972) 712-2645**

**ST. FRANCIS YOUTH MINISTRY CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. I agree to treat other participants, leaders, staff and residents with respect and understand that all adult leaders have the authority to discipline me.
2. I will always follow the schedule and guidelines given to me.
3. I understand that alcohol, weapons, fireworks, tobacco products of any kind, illegal drugs and profane or abusive language are NOT ALLOWED on any of this activity. I further understand that all prescription drugs must be dispensed by an adult leader.
4. I understand that I represent **St. Francis Youth Ministry** and agree to behave in a Christian and positive manner at all times. I further agree to dress appropriately during this activity.
5. Public display of affection (PDA's) and sexual indiscretion (including inappropriate touching) is prohibited at all times and in all cases.
6. No participant under the age of 21 is allowed to leave without an adult's permission and supervision.
7. In the event of an emergency or other need to contact any participants, the staff must know where I can be located, therefore I agree to stay with my assigned group at all times.
8. By attending this function, all participants agree to stay until the function's conclusion, unless they have a medical emergency.
9. I realize that my parents and I will be financially responsible for any damage I do to property, facilities, or vehicles.
10. I understand that if I **choose** to violate any part of this "Code of Conduct", I run the risk of having my parents notified by phone, or in person; that I may be sent home on the first available flight or bus, at my parent's expense. During a local activity, my parents will be asked to pick me up, immediately. (This determination will be left to the discretion of the trip/retreat coordinator.)

High School Confirmation Retreat March 2nd-4th,2012  
@ Camp Copass

**TO BE FILLED OUT BY PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN**

I HEREBY GIVE MY PERMISSION FOR MY SON/DAUGHTER TO PARTICIPATE IN St. Francis Confirmation Retreat at Camp Copass March 2nd-4th,2012. I understand reasonable precautions will be taken to keep my child safe. I will not hold St. Francis Church, members of the staff, or volunteers responsible for accidental harm or injury that may occur during this activity. In case of an emergency during this time, I hereby consent to and authorize the giving of treatment and/or medication ordered by a physician or adult for the care of my son/daughter.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ins. Co. Name and Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Ins Co. Address \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies and/or Medications \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make note and initial if you authorize Tylenol or Ibuprofen without contacting you) \_\_\_\_\_

**We have read and agree to the  
"Code of Conduct."**

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT INFORMATION (Please Print)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**If you would like to volunteer to chaperone, please fill in your information.**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone Number To Reach You \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the bottom portion of this form and include payment (checks payable to: SFYM) and return to St. Francis Church, 8000 El Dorado Parkway, Frisco, TX, 75033.  
For more information, call 972-712-2645 and dial 232 for Kathy or 358 for Tammy.

## IMPORTANT RETREAT INFO.

This is a mandatory requirement as mandated by our diocese.

**\*\*If any family is going through a financial crisis, please contact either Tammy or Kathy so we can help you figure out how to take care of the fee. \*\*\***

We will be meeting @ St. Francis at 5:30 pm in the Education Wing. Please come with dinner already in your belly! This is when you will check in for attendance, snacks, meds, and load the bus.

We will return @ 12:00pm on Sunday

Attendance on the retreat counts towards class attendance.

### Retreat Packing List

#### *What to bring:*

Sleeping bag  
Pillow  
Towel  
Rosary  
Journal (optional)  
Bible  
Tennis shoes (we will be doing some athletic activities that will not work without proper shoes)  
Shower shoes (flip flops or crocs)  
1 pants  
2 pairs shorts (ladies must be to your knees if not you'll have to wear what Tammy gives you and it won't be "fashionable")  
4 t-shirts  
1 jacket  
4 pair socks & undergarments  
Pajamas  
Toiletries (i.e. toothbrush, deodorant)  
Couple plastic bags (for dirty clothes, wet shoes, trash, etc)  
1 snack to share (suggestion 12 pack of chips or big thing of cookies)  
1 drink to share (suggestion 12 pks of sodas, water or Capri suns)  
(optional: disposable camera. If you decide to bring a digital camera we are not responsible if it breaks.)  
Positive attitude

**What *NOT* to bring: (if you choose to bring any of these items and a chaperone sees it, the chaperone will take it up and it will be returned at the end of the retreat when we return to St. Francis. If a child is wearing inappropriate clothing they will be asked to change, if the youth does not have appropriate clothing some will be provided for them.)**

Electronic devices of any sort (i.e. games & DVD players) (unless electric toothbrush)  
Music or Music players (i.e. iPods, CD players, mp3players etc) (Retreat music will be provided by Anthony D'Ambrosio)  
Flashlights (chaperones will have them)  
Alarm Clocks (chaperones will wake everyone up)  
Cell phones (if you need to use a phone you have to get permission and you will be able to use a chaperone's phone) (If we see you with your cell phone it will be given to Tammy for safe keeping until the end of the retreat!!!)  
Spaghetti straps, tube tops, tank tops, or halter tops (try to wear school appropriate clothes)  
Micro skirts or short shorts  
All t-shirts, caps, etc which advertise alcohol or tobacco products or are of a suggestive nature may not be worn.  
Fingerboards  
Illegal drugs, alcohol, knives, ANY form of tobacco, guns, fireworks, skateboards, or anything deemed detrimental to the intended atmosphere. Such items will be taken up and will result in a call to the parents.

Please note that public or private displays of affection will not be tolerated, nor will cursing, threatening, or fighting.

## **Camp Copass' Rules**

Camp Copass is a Christian camp and all rules are to help us in our conduct which will reflect Christ in all that we do. All campers and sponsors must know and follow these rules.

Please respect all camp properties just as you would the church you attend. We ask you to assist in keeping the grounds clean of trash. Cans are provided camp wide to dispose of debris.

The following items are not permitted at Camp Copass: illegal drugs, alcohol, knives, ANY form of tobacco, guns, fireworks, skateboards, radios, music players (unless used by program personnel), video games, or anything deemed detrimental to the intended atmosphere. Such items will be taken up and held by camp staff and will be returned at departure.

Modest shorts are permitted, but must be fingertip length.

Students must attend all scheduled sessions and activities during the week unless they are ill or are accompanied by a sponsor.

Students may not leave the camp unless the camp director is notified.

Students may not drive or ride in an automobile or golf cart during the week of camp.

If any recreational equipment is returned damaged or not returned at all your group will be held responsible and a bill will be submitted to your church that will reflect an amount sufficient to replace the equipment.

The lake is not approved for swimming or other water activities. Keep a safe distance from the water at all times.

Campers are not allowed to enter the dorms of campers of the opposite sex.

All t-shirts, caps, etc. which advertise alcohol or tobacco products or are of a suggestive nature may not be worn.

No spaghetti straps, tube tops or halter tops will be allowed.

Public or private displays of affection will not be tolerated, nor will cursing, threatening, or fighting.

No use of the ropes course will be allowed unless authorized and trained Camp Copass staff are present.

(We will NOT be using the ropes course on this retreat!!!)

There MUST be at least one adult sponsor for every ten campers of each gender.

Meals must be taken in the dining hall unless otherwise prearranged with the camp.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
8000 El Dorado Parkway, Frisco, TX 75033 (972) 712-2645  
Fax: (972) 712-1087

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM**

**DUE: Oct. 16th**

**Please Print Legibly!**

*Please do not leave any space blank; fill in N/A if not applicable*

**MUST ATTACH A COPY OF BAPTISM CERTIFICATE (not Birth Certificate)**

STUDENT NAME (as on Birth Certificate): \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT RESIDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (Apt. #)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip code)

PHONE NUMBERS: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE of BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY & STATE of BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

\*FATHER'S FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Middle Initial Last)

\*MOTHER'S FIRST & MAIDEN NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First Middle Initial Maiden)

\*Parents listed must be parents by blood unless legally adopted. Print names as they appear on child's birth certificate. If parent is not named on birth certificate, write "not named" in the space provided.

★ CHILD'S DATE OF BAPTISM: \_\_\_\_\_

★ This is NOT to be confused with Date of Birth. This can be found on your Baptism Certificate.

CHURCH OF BAPTISM: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_  
(street)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(city, state, zip code)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Country of Baptism)

**TO BE FILLED OUT BY OFFICE WHEN OTHER WORK HANDED IN**

**CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of sponsor. Sponsor cannot be candidate's parent. Only one sponsor per candidate. A sponsor is needed even if he/she cannot attend the Confirmation Ceremony.

**SPONSOR BY PROXY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Print name of proxy sponsor (can be candidate's parent). Only print a proxy name if the sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation Ceremony.

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
8000 El Dorado Parkway, Frisco, TX 75033 (972) 712-2645  
Fax: (972) 712-1087

**PARENT PLEDGE**

**DUE: Oct. 16th**

**Please Print Legibly!**

*Please do not leave any space blank; fill in N/A if not applicable*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent of \_\_\_\_\_  
hereby renew the commitment I made on the day of my child's baptism:

- I accept the responsibility of training my child in the practice of the faith.
- I accept the duty of bringing my child up to keep God's commandments.
- I reject Satan, all his works, and all his empty promises
- I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**I hereby also promise to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the expectations of the parents of the confirmation candidate of the St. Francis Confirmation program as enumerated in this handbook. By signing this document I am truthfully saying that I have both read and understand what is expected of myself and my child. I choose to:**

- Faithfully strive to live out my sacramental covenant with God. (I will seek to be an example of Christ in their daily life.)
- Cultivate and deepen a relationship with God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and His Church; through worship, prayer, study, service, and love.
- Diligently help my child to complete ALL the requirements of the St. Francis Confirmation Program in a timely and acceptable manner.
- Spend time with my child helping them develop an active life of faith.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of parent) date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of parent) date

# CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Each confirmation candidate is required to have a sponsor.

A **sponsor** is an adult who will help the candidate grow in and live their faith, both in preparation for Confirmation **and** throughout their life.



We encourage parents to assist their son/daughter in the choosing process. Encourage them to *think about it* and **PRAY about it**.

## Practical Guidelines in Selecting a Sponsor

**The sponsor must be a faithful Catholic in good standing.** This includes, but is not limited to, attending mass every Sunday, receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, cultivating a devout prayer life, and living a model life of service.

**The sponsor should strive to witness Christ by word and deed, to spread and defend the Catholic faith, and be involved in parish life.**

The sponsor should be someone who will help the candidate grow into full Christian maturity. They should have the opportunity to cultivate a relationship with natural and supernatural dimensions.

Preference should be given to a baptismal godparent.

Only one person (not two) may be selected as a Confirmation sponsor.

Should be of sound mind so as to be able to spiritually direct the candidate.

A child's parent may not be the Confirmation sponsor. As a parent, he/she already has the role of sponsoring. The sponsor should support and help the parent in this role.

Some questions to address when seeking a Sponsor:

Is the sponsor baptized and confirmed and over 16 yrs. old?

If the sponsor is married was he/she married in the Catholic Church?

Does the sponsor attend Mass on Sunday?

Does the sponsor follow the teachings of the Catholic Church?

Will this person help you grow in your faith and love God and neighbor more?

Get to know your sponsor. Where did they grow up, what did they study, what kind of jobs have they worked. Get to know them as a person and have them share their life experiences with you.

Talk to the sponsor about how he/she has developed his/her relationship with God. What have been peak experiences?

Moments of conversion? How have they witnessed God's presence?

Talk to the sponsor about his/her favorite ways and places to pray.

Talk to the sponsor about how he/she witnesses Christ and proclaims the faith in word and deed.

Talk to the sponsor about how he/she daily lives out his/her participation in the Church.

**The sponsor report (written by the candidate)** should be a typed essay explaining who the sponsor is and why you have chosen him/her. You should also discuss how your sponsor will help you along the journey towards Confirmation and beyond as well. It would be great to include a picture of your sponsor in the report. Don't forget to include the sponsor's name, address, phone number, email, and your relationship with him/her (uncle, cousin, friend of family, etc.) as part of the heading. Please see the included model report.

## SPONSOR REPORT EXAMPLE

*No picture necessary*

### **Mr. Jason Brown**

7777 Battier Dr. Frisco TX 75034

(555) 555-555

emailaddress@yahoo.com

*Relationship:* Godfather and friend of family

*Favorite Saint:* The Blessed Virgin Mary

*Favorite Prayer:* Eucharistic adoration and Rosary

*Favorite Food:* Blue Bell Ice Cream

*Favorite College:* Texas A&M (Jason does not like UT Austin)

*Favorite NBA Team:* Houston Rockets

*Favorite NCAA Team:* Duke Blue Devils, because of Coach Mike

Kryzewski

*Married at:* All Saints Catholic Church

*A place he wants to visit:* Rome, Italy



Mr. Jason Brown has been a friend of my family since before I was born. He was born in 1975 in Brenham, TX. He grew up there, living with his parents and one brother. After graduating from high school he went to college at Texas A&M. Now he works as an accountant. He was married to Rebecca in 2003 and they are very much in love and have a wonderful family together. My parents asked Jason to be my baptismal godfather, since he has been such a great godfather, I know that he will be a great sponsor.

I think Jason is a model member of the Catholic Church for many reasons. He goes to mass every Sunday. He meets with a prayer group that is dedicated to Mary once a week. He also is involved in helping out at White Rose Clinic (they help women who are pregnant). In the past he also volunteered with Life Teen. I see Jason as a person who loves God and the Church a lot.

I have asked Jason to be my sponsor because I think he is really cool and we get along. We have fun together when our families visit. More importantly I see him as a man of God who makes good decisions and always wants to help people. Since I was young, he has taught me about my faith and I want this to keep going. I can talk to him when I have questions about God.

Finally, I learned in class that the Catholic Church encourages us (if it is appropriate) to pick one of our baptism godparents as our confirmation sponsors. Jason has agreed to help do some service hours with me and also to pray with me. I think this will make it more fun. He is excited about being my sponsor. I thank God for putting Jason in my life.

# CONFIRMATION PATRON SAINT

Each confirmation candidate chooses a saint as a patron and is confirmed under that patron saint's name.

A **patron saint** is someone already in heaven with whom we feel a connection, want to imitate, and from whom we request intercession throughout life.

The tradition of taking on a new name reflects a new role in life. This is evident throughout the Scriptures, e.g. "Abram" was changed to "Abraham" which means "Father of Many Nations," and Simon was changed to "Peter" which means "Rock" because Jesus founded His Church upon him as the first pope.

**When you choose a new name for your Confirmation, it should be the name of a saint you have read and learned about, admire, and want to imitate, you shouldn't choose a Saint because you like his/her name. You should choose a saint that you want to be like.**

## **Practical Guidelines in Selecting a Saint**

You should be familiar with this saint's life. Hopefully you see similarities between you and this saint and/or want to aspire to be like this saint.

The saint you select should be someone you look up to as a hero.

You should develop a personal devotion to this saint and build a relationship with him/her through constant prayer.

You should try to learn about a lot of saints. That way you will make a better decision choosing your patron saint. Moreover, the more saints you are familiar with the easier it becomes for you to request their intercession (even from the ones that are not your special confirmation patron); the saints are always eager and happy to help us.

Please refrain from picking the following names provided by Fr. Larry that cannot be used for Confirmation. People that have been given the title of Servant of God, apparitions of Jesus (i.e. Infant de Atocha), and Philomena.

The saint report should be a typed essay with at least three paragraphs: **(1) a brief biography of the saint written in your own words, (2) an explanation of the reasons why you have selected this saint, (3) and ideas of how you will develop your devotion and relationship with this saint.** Try to include a picture of the saint in your report as well as cool facts about the saint, what he/she is a patron of, when they lived, and when they were canonized. The report should be 1 and ½ pages long (not including the picture) Please see the included model report.



## SAINT REPORT EXAMPLE Due Date January 8<sup>th</sup>

### ST. ATHANASIUS

296 AD – 373 AD



*Feast Day:* May 2

*Name means:* Immortality (Greek)

*Nickname:* Defender of Orthodoxy

*Patron saint of:* Teachers of the Faith,

those persecuted for the sake of proclaiming true Catholic doctrine

St. Athanasius was born in Alexandria, Egypt. While he was young, the Church in Egypt was badly persecuted by Roman authority. Many people he knew were martyred for the faith. The bishop at that time, Alexander, once saw him baptizing several children and was impressed with his faith and love of God. Athanasius became his secretary and was ordained a deacon. Together they both attended the Council of Nicea (325 AD) where Athanasius explained the truth of who Jesus is against the Arians. The Arians believed Jesus was not God and that God made Jesus like He made the angels and humans. Athanasius helped write the Nicene Creed (which we say every Sunday at Mass) and taught that Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He became bishop of Alexandria. Unfortunately, the Arians gained the support of various emperors and persecuted him nearly all his life. They never stopped spreading evil rumors and lies about him. He was exiled from his homeland five times and often had to flee and hide for fear that he would be imprisoned or killed by evil soldiers. Yet his people loved him very much and did all they could to help and obey him. Eventually, the enemies of Athanasius were defeated and Athanasius lived the last years of his life in peace as Bishop of Alexandria.

I want to choose St. Athanasius as my confirmation sponsor because I see him as a hero and I wish I could be more like him. I believe our world and Church really need his courage and strength today. Athanasius had many enemies, yet he still stood up for the truth and he continued to live according to the Catholic faith. He lived at a time when many people did not believe the truth of Jesus. Yet he was so in love with Jesus and knew Him so well that he defended the truth of who Jesus is with everything he had. He suffered a lot and yet his faith was always strong. Like St. Athanasius, I want to know my faith well and help share it with

## **SAINT REPORT EXAMPLE Cont.**

others so people will love Jesus more. I want to be a hero like St Athanasius. I want to stand up for the truth even when people pull me in the wrong direction. I want to have a strength like Athanasius. I want a strength to resist temptation and stand up to all the attacks of the devil. Lastly I want to be holy and virtuous like St Athanasius. We live in a world where virtue is almost looked down on, and being holy is something not too many people strive for. Our world is desperately in need of heroes and I want to be a hero like St Athanasius, and grow in holiness. I know it will be difficult, so hopefully St. Athanasius will help me.

I will develop my relationship with St. Athanasius by praying to him and asking for his help. I have found several holy cards of him and use them. I also have a picture of him in a frame in my room so I can always remember to talk to him. Maybe I can even read some of the things that he wrote. I also try to share the story of his life with people I know. One time my family was in Chicago and we found a church with his name. They had a novena prayer card there and now I can pray that too.

## LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Letter is due in the St. Francis Office for the pastor to review **no later than 7:15pm on January 29th!**

DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR YOUR LETTER. USE A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER FOLLOWING THE FORMAT OUTLINED BELOW:

January 1, 2012

Dear Your Excellency,

I, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Frisco, Texas, ask you, Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, to confirm me as a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

I would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation has been \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have chosen (sponsor's name) to present me to you on the day of my Confirmation and to witness my commitment. I made this choice because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You will seal my commitment to Jesus and his Church by anointing me with oil and by calling me by name. The name I wish to be called at my Confirmation is (your saint's name) \_\_\_\_\_. I have chosen that name because (name qualities that you would like to imitate that your saint lived out in his/her life) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will help me build up the Church, and I wish to share in building up the Church by \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

**(REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR NAME!!!)**

*(possibly add your favorite saint quote or bible verse here)*

## Service Hours

*“To whom much has been given, much will be expected.” (Luke 12:48)*

Every candidate will need to complete a total of 15 service hours from April 1, 2011 to March 28th, 2012. Forms are due no later than Sunday, March 25th.

**Service: is work done by the candidate without monetary compensation and without promise of a reward, award, or some other type of rank, status, or recognition achieved in an organizations.** It should be serving others for the ultimate glory of God. Service hours will not be counted when for immediate family (such as doing dishes, laundry, or baby sitting your siblings).

As we prepare for confirmation, our Christian service should be about more than just doing good. We must aim at developing virtues (or holy habits) of faith. As Christians, we should seek Christ in all of our neighbors especially those who are considered “the least”. Moreover, we must willingly and energetically work towards doing God’s will on earth every day of our lives and striving towards the transformation of this world into the Kingdom of God.

We recommend that the candidate seeks to run their own service projects, or picks a kind of service within which they are able to share their talents with the community. The following are a few of examples.

Events that happened this past summer that count towards service hours:

- Mission Possible (June 2011)
- Volunteering for Vacation Bible Study (June 2011)
- Mowing the lawn for a neighbor
- Singing/playing music in the youth choir\*
- Altar serving\*
- Lectoring\*
- Student Aide with the PreK @ 10:00 am Mass\*
- Cleaning the youth room \*
- Neighborhood carwash
- Volunteering with the Special Olympics
- Volunteering to coach/ ref. at sporting events without pay
- Babysitting (but not directly for immediate family)
- Volunteering at a nursing home
- Concession stands
- Frisco Family Food Services (volunteering at the pantry)
- Frisco Re-Sale (must work with an adult)
- Attending Faith Formation Commission Meetings (once a month) as an ambassador for the youth \*

\*= you can receive details about this from Tammy

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
Community Service for Confirmation

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of community service performed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of organization or community member served:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of group or community organization that arranged the  
service project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of supervisor or person who can verify service:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of supervisor or person who can verify service:

\_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
Community Service for Confirmation

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of community service performed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of organization or community member served:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of group or community organization that arranged the  
service project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of supervisor or person who can verify service:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # of supervisor or person who can verify service:

\_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**