



S a i n t R o s e o f L i m a C h u r c h

Confirmation 2018: Summons to Discipleship

August 1, 2017

Dear Confirmation Families,

I am happy to welcome you and your children to our Confirmation preparation process entitled: *Confirmation: Summons to Discipleship*. The goal of the program is to insure that each candidate is well prepared to receive the sacrament by providing opportunities for prayerful discernment and spiritual growth. The candidate must be ready, by his or her own faith conviction, to enter into this sacramental encounter with the Lord. During the Confirmation Mass when the bishop asks our candidates to profess their desire to become more fully initiated into the community of believers, it is our hope that they will be fully prepared to boldly answer, "I do!"

The requirements of this process are comprised of several key areas that include: catechetical sessions, prayer and retreats, stewardship activities, and youth ministry. In addition, all candidates are required to have an interview before beginning the preparation process. Prior to their interview the candidate must write a brief letter explaining why they are asking to be confirmed, and review and sign the Candidate Agreement (parents should also review and sign agreement). They must also choose a sponsor, who must be a fully initiated catholic who is at least sixteen years old. (A parent may not serve as their child's sponsor.)

The following is provided for your information/attention: Calendar of class dates and required events; Candidate Agreement, Candidate Letter, and Sponsor Form. Forms can be mailed, dropped off in the Devine Center, or faxed to 973-379-5356. Candidate interviews will begin in late August and run through mid-October and we will be sending a Sign-Up Genius link soon with available dates.

At this time I am also pleased to introduce the newest member of our Adolescent Faith Formation team, Regina Furlan, a long-time parishioner, cantor, volunteer, and Confirmation catechist. Regina is replacing Patty Nascone, who served faithfully for the past nine years. We wish Patty well in her new position at Seton Hall Prep, and welcome Regina. We both look forward to a wonderful year journeying with our candidates for Confirmation!

Throughout the year we will communicate primarily through email (emails are sent to the family email indicated on the registration form), so please check to ensure that St. Rose group emails do not end up in your spam folder. In the meantime if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me or Regina by email at confirmation@stroseshorthills.org, or by phone at 973-376-1960, x3503 or x3971.

Sincerely yours In Christ,
Tracy Ricciardi
Director of Adolescent Faith Formation

CC: Fr. John McCrone, Pastor

50 Short Hills Avenue ~ Short Hills, NJ 07078
Fax: 973-379-5356 ~ Phone: 973-376-1960
Email: confirmation@stroseshorthills.org



SAINT ROSE OF LIMA PARISH
Confirmation 2018: Summons to Discipleship

2017/18 CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------|---|
| September | Interviews |
| September 24 | Inscription Mass at 12:30pm (followed by Parish Picnic) |
| October 22 | Summons to Discipleship Retreat (4pm-7pm with dinner) |
| November 12/13 | Class # 1 (make-up on 11/19) |
| November 26/27 | Class #2 (make-up on 12/3) |
| December 10/11 | Class #3 (make-up on 12/17) |
| January 7/8 | Class #4 (make-up on 1/14) |
| January 21/22 | Class #5 (make-up on 1/28) |
| February 4/5 | Class #6 (make-up on 2/11) |
| March 5/6 | Class #7 (make-up on 3/12) |
| March 18/19 | Class #8 (make-up on 3/25) |
| April 29 | Final Retreat (All day Event) |
| TBD* | Confirmation Rehearsals |
| TBD* | Confirmation Holy Hour/Penance |
| TBD* | Confirmation Masses (at 12:30pm & 3:30pm) |

*The date for Confirmation is determined by the presiding bishop, and the dates for the rehearsals/Holy Hour are set based on the date of Confirmation. We will notify all families of the exact dates as soon as they are available to us.

PLEASE NOTE: Sunday classes meet from 10:45AM-12:15PM and
Monday classes meet from 7:30PM-9:00PM.

Make-up classes are held on Sundays from 10-11:30am



Confirmation 2018: Summons to Discipleship

CANDIDATE AGREEMENT

Candidates for Confirmation are expected to participate fully in the preparation process and to complete all requirements, which include:

- Confirmation orientation
- Two letters (one over summer and one in spring before Confirmation)
- Candidate interview
- Confirmation Inscription Mass
- Summons to Discipleship retreat in Fall
- Eight catechetical sessions*
- Final Confirmation retreat in Spring
- Participation in three stewardship activities two of which must be parish-based
- Participation in two youth ministry activities (usually, but not always, on Sunday evenings)
- Assigned Confirmation rehearsal
- Confirmation Holy Hour/Penance Weekly participation in Sunday liturgy

*Candidates who miss a catechetical session must attend the scheduled make-up.

So that you may be fully engaged and free from distraction, cell phone use is strictly prohibited during all Confirmation activities. If a parent needs to reach you during a class session or activity they must do so using the office phone or by contacting the Director of Adolescent Faith Formation. The use of electronic items such as MP3 Players, iPods, or electronic games is also not allowed during Confirmation activities. Abuse of these policies will result in the removal of the item, and repeated abuse will result in a meeting with the Director of Adolescent Faith Formation.

**WE HAVE READ THE AGREEMENT ABOVE AND AGREE TO COOPERATE
AND ABIDE BY THE POLICIES THEREIN.**

NAME OF CANDIDATE: _____

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Please sign and return to the Confirmation office with your candidate letter by September 1

50 Short Hills Avenue, Short Hills, NJ 07078

FAX: 973-379-5356



Confirmation 2018: Summons to Discipleship
Candidate Letter

Candidate Name: _____

Please give some prayerful and honest consideration to the reasons you wish to be accepted as a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation and what you hope to learn through the preparation process. Feel free to use the back of this form as well.

Candidate Signature

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE CONFIRMATION OFFICE, ALONG WITH YOUR SIGNED CANDIDATE AGREEMENT FORM, BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

50 Short Hills Avenue ~ Short Hills, NJ 07078
Fax: 973-379-5356 ~ Phone: 973-376-1960
Email: confirmation@stroseshorthills.org



Saint Rose of Lima Church
Confirmation 2018: Summons to Discipleship

SPONSOR FORM

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Choosing a Sponsor:

The person must be a full initiated Catholic who is at least 16 years of age. A parent may not serve as their child's sponsor. Consider a person you know who is a role model in the practice of the Catholic Faith and discipleship. We encourage our candidates to choose their sponsor early in the preparation process so that they may be part of their journey. See back of form for more information on the role of the sponsor.

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor email: _____

Address: _____

Relationship to Candidate/Reasons for choosing: _____

Please complete and return as early as possible, and no later than December 1, 2017 to:
St. Rose of Lima Church/Confirmation Program
50 Short Hills Avenue – Short Hills, NJ 07078 or Fax to: (973) 379-5356
Email: confirmation@stroseshorthills.org

ROLE OF SPONSORS

A sponsor can make an enormous difference in the preparation of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important, therefore, that the candidates are encouraged to choose sponsors who are well suited to the role and who will be integral to the preparation process.

The Church's tradition of involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is one of our most ancient approaches to faith formation. In the early centuries, when the catechumenate was the entry point for anyone seeking to become a Christian, the sponsor played an extremely vital role.

The sponsor was a living witness and mentor who represented the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) to the catechumen. The sponsor would, in turn, witness to the community on behalf of the catechumen's readiness for the initiatory sacraments.

The role of a sponsor was not over with the celebration of the sacraments, however. It was seen as a lifetime commitment, a relationship that would last throughout the individual's journey of faith.

In the early Church the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation were always celebrated at one time; therefore, there was never a different sponsor at Baptism and Confirmation. In subsequent centuries, however, with the separation of Confirmation from Baptism, it became more common to have different persons act as sponsor for those two sacraments.

Both the Code of Canon Law (Canon 893.2) and the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation (5) suggest that in view of contemporary pastoral circumstances, it is desirable to have one's baptismal sponsor act as sponsor at Confirmation. While this remains the ideal, it seems much more important that the sponsor chosen be available and involved with the candidate in a significant way, and be able to offer an authentic example of lived Christian faith.

As a bare minimum, the Code of Canon Law specifies that the requirements for acting as a sponsor at Confirmation (Canon 893) are the same as those for godparents at Baptism (Canon 874). Briefly, that canon directs that the person must have completed their sixteenth year, be fully initiated, live a life of faith, not be the parent, and not be bound by any other canonical restrictions.

One of the challenges that might exist occurs when sponsors live at a distance and cannot interact in person with their candidate. However, in this day of instantaneous Internet and cell phone communication, only a little extra effort is required to maintain regular contact between sponsor and candidate. It is important that interaction occurs on a consistent basis and that sponsors are informed. We encourage our candidates to choose their sponsor at the beginning of the preparation process so that they may be a part of their formation.