

St. Patrick/Immaculate Conception/ St. Wenceslaus Catholic Churches Confirmation Program

2010-2011



**Be all the more eager to make your call and election
firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble.**

2 Peter 1:10

Welcome to Our Confirmation Program!

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Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday: 9 to 4:00pm
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MISSION STATEMENT FOR YOUTH MINISTRY:

The Parishes of St. Patrick, Immaculate Conception, and St. Wenceslaus recognize that their youth are a vital part of their parish community. The youth bring to our community their energy, enthusiasm, and hopes for a brighter tomorrow while offering their emerging giftedness and talents. Our young people desire and deserve to participate in all aspects of parish life, and our parishes support and encourage their full participation. The parishes recognize and support the role of parents as the primary providers of faith formation. The parishes also accept the challenge of Christ to provide a strong faith community in fostering the faith development of its young people. The adults of the parishes have their own unique gifts to offer the youth of their parish: wisdom, experience, history, and tradition. Realizing that youth have a unique contribution to make to our parishes, the community is called to challenge its youth to a meaningful relationship with Christ Jesus by providing a total program of youth formation consistent with the principles of A Vision of Youth Ministry, United States Catholic Conference, 1976.

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CONFIRMATION PROGRAM GOALS

- That the parish community, on all levels, receives ***appropriate guidance*** to celebrate the sacrament effectively.
- That the candidates ***experience*** the meaning of initiation into a welcoming community.
- That the candidates have a ***reasonable understanding*** of the person, mission, and message of Jesus.
- That the candidates ***understand and comprehend*** the significance and role of the sacraments in the church's life and in their own.
- That the candidates ***recognize and appreciate*** the role and activity of the Holy Spirit in their life and in the life of the church.
- That the candidates have a better understanding of what it means to commit their lives to Christ.***



CONFIRMATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Confirmation preparation classes will begin in September of 2010 and end in September 2011 when we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The preparation process is open to youth who will be a sophomore in high school or older and will be at least 15 years old in September 2011. It is required that they have completed the past 2 years in a formal catechetical program in either a parish religious education program or attended Catholic school. All candidates are required to fully participate in the following activities:

- ⇒ Attend formal classes beginning in September 2010 and ending in September 2011.
- ⇒ Be an active part of the service/ministry work within the parish community prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation
- ⇒ Attend and participate in scheduled retreat
- ⇒ Attend Mass on a weekly basis
- ⇒ Demonstrate commitment to living baptismal promises

Parental Involvement is the key to catechesis and prayer/worship experiences. The small group leaders and the Confirmation Coordinator may be present as role models but it is important to stress that parental involvement shows **interest and commitment from the entire family.**

The emphasis of this Confirmation Program is on the **experiential nature of our faith.** It is by integrating our faith experiences that make the transition from head knowledge to personal relationship. While emphasizing the experiential, the program also seeks to **provide solid teaching on communal spirituality within the framework of Catholic sacramentality and the liturgy.**

Time will be taken for a retreat. This opportunity will be a time to reflect on experiences and look forward to the approaching Confirmation celebration and continued commitment to living according to Jesus Christ.

Service/Ministry experiences are designed to enhance the ability of the candidates to serve as active, involved members of the parish community. These experiences are an excellent opportunity for each person to recognize his/her own gifts and blessings as he/she offers assistance to others. It is our hope that the candidates will be guided to a lifetime of service to others as fully initiated members of the Church.

The Confirmation candidates will **study and apply the Gifts of the Holy Spirit** through formal classes. Each candidate's parent/guardian will receive a booklet entitled *YOUR CHILD'S CONFIRMATION*, by Carol Luebering. Sponsors will receive a book entitled *WHEN A TEENAGER CHOOSES YOU* by Joseph Moore.

Confirmation class and retreat fee: **Immaculate Conception and St Wenceslaus pay this fee for you.**

Each Confirmation Candidate and parent/guardian will be asked to complete a **Confirmation Covenant** pledging their commitment to the Confirmation process. This is not a commitment to be Confirmed, but a commitment to go through the preparation and discernment process. We reserve the right to recommend that a candidate's Confirmation be postponed if the Confirmation Coordinator and Catechist feel he/she is not participating fully in the Confirmation preparation.

Confirmation is about commitment, faith, and community. Each person, from coordinators, small group leaders, candidates, sponsors, parents/guardians, and the entire faith community should grow in openness to and awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit during the Confirmation preparation and throughout their faith journey.



Expectations

1. All candidates and one or both parents/guardians are expected to meet with the Confirmation Coordinator to review expectations and requirements of the program. This is usually done during a large group meeting.
2. Candidates are expected to attend Mass on a weekly basis, all class sessions, Confirmation retreat, and the Sacrament of Confirmation Mass. Sponsor or adult representatives are also required to attend one or two designated classes with their Confirmandi.
3. Tentative class schedules are in this booklet. Put the class dates on your calendars **NOW!** These dates should not be "bumped" unless there is an illness or major family responsibility that you must meet. Most employers will respect the need for you to be off during these hours if you give them plenty of notice. Our suggestion is that you give them a copy of your schedule **NOW** to avoid a scheduling problem later. Work and sports are not acceptable excuses for missing multiple classes or retreat.
4. Due to the limited number of classes, **sport commitments cannot be considered legitimate reasons for missing multiple classes.** Coaches are usually understanding when they realize a youth will miss a practice or game for Confirmation class. If there is a problem, please contact the Confirmation Coordinator and they will, in turn, contact the coach.
5. If you find it absolutely necessary to miss class, it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact the Confirmation Coordinator to discuss the situation. This is **your** responsibility, **NOT** your parent's!
6. **Only two (2) absences will be allowed for this preparation session.** If you miss three (3) or more classes, we will need to evaluate the situation in a meeting between you, your parents, the pastor, and the Confirmation Coordinator. It might be necessary to continue your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation next year due to missing group/community experiences.

This policy is out of fairness to your classmates who are meeting all of the requirements without exception and fairness to your own level of preparedness for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. There is no way to truly "make-up" a group session on sacramental preparation.

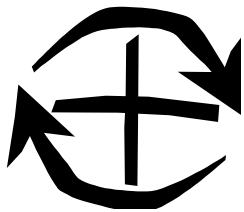
Class Schedule...

...attend all classes

meet @ 11:15pm (directly following 10:00 Mass) and conclude at 1:00pm

<u>May 19th, 2010</u>	<i>Orientation Meeting @ 6:30pm @ church</i>
<u>October 10th, 2010</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>October 24th, 2010</u>	<i>10:00 – 1:00 @ the church</i> <i>Presentation of Confirmandi @ 10:00 Mass</i> <i>(parents need to be present at Mass; class will follow Mass w/a parent or sponsor attending)</i>
<u>November 14th, 2010</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>December 12th, 2010</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>January 9th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>January 23rd, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>February 13th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>February 27th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>March 13th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>March 27th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>April 10th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i> <i>(sponsor or parent to attend class with Confirmandi)</i>
<u>May 1st, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i> <i>(sponsor or parent to attend class with Confirmandi)</i>
<u>June 5th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i> <i>(sponsor or parent to attend class with Confirmandi)</i>
<u>July 10th, 2011</u>	<i>11:15 – 1:00 @ the church</i>
<u>August 6th, 2011</u>	ALL DAY RETREAT!
<u>August 21st, 2011</u>	<i>Rite of Enrollment @ 10:00 Mass & Brunch</i> <i>(parents and sponsors will need to attend Mass with Confirmandi)</i>

Proposed dates to celebrate Sacrament of Confirmation to be determined



SERVICE/MINISTRY REQUIREMENTS

Created in the image of our loving God, you are a gifted and talented person. **Your gifts, talents, knowledge, and power, however, do not find their truest meanings and values unless they are used to love God and your neighbor as yourself.** In other words, you need to share yourself in order to discover who God is calling you to become and the way to do this is called your **Service or Ministry**.

As a member of Immaculate Conception or St. Wenceslaus Parish, you belong to a community of persons who - in faith, hope, and love - seek to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world today. It is an expectation of the parish community that every member have a definite ministry (or ministries) within the parish that best utilize his/her special gifts and talents. To what ministry are you being called?

Service done within the parish community:

Candidates will:

- Assist with Immaculate Conception's Ice Cream Social Aug. 8.
- Assist with games set up/staffing at St Wenceslaus' Goulash Day Sept. 26
- Assist with Sunday Night Suppers at First Presbyterian Church 4-6 pm
Each candidate signs up to serve one night; Sept 19, Nov 21, Jan 16, Mar 20, May 15, July 17

Candidates will serve their parish in one of the following ministries:

- Assist with religious education classes on Wednesday evenings
- Be an altar server
- Be an active member of the choir
- Parish Life & events (to be determined)

Other group opportunities in our community may include:

Oct	Especially for You Walk/Run
Nov	Turkey Trot in Marion
March	Movin' for McAuley Walk
June	American Cancer Society's Relay for Life

...live faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation Sponsor should...

The Confirmation sponsor should...

- ↪ to be a **positive role model**.
- ↪ someone who is **firm and comfortable in the faith** of the Catholic Church.
- ↪ will **give you support and inspiration** by the way they live their lives according to their baptismal promises.
- ↪ **share in your faith journey** by being present to your fears, concerns, challenges, and victories.
- ↪ **help you put your faith into action** by being at your side as you serve others.
- ↪ **appreciate your giftedness**.
- ↪ **pray for and with you**.
- ↪ **participate in the Confirmation celebration** by standing with you and presenting you to the Archbishop.
- ↪ **continue to be there for you** and lend spiritual support after the Sacrament of Confirmation ceremony has been celebrated.

For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

ROMANS 8:13-14

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

It is necessary that the person chosen by the candidate to be their Confirmation sponsor fulfill the conditions mentioned in Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law for the Roman Catholic Church.

A confirmation sponsor is someone who is willing to serve as a spiritual companion to help you in discerning your giftedness, understanding practical and spiritual ways to use your gifts in ministry, discovering what being a confirmed Catholic really means for you, and opening yourself to the power of God's Spirit in your life. The sponsor is not someone who has all the answers to your questions or concerns, but someone you feel comfortable being with, talking with, praying with, and who has the time to meet with you on a regular basis. The sponsor should assist in the catechetical and liturgical preparation for the Sacrament, and help the candidate to fulfill his/her baptismal promises

Your sponsor must:

- ✚ Attend Mass at his or her parish on a regular basis (preferably on a weekly basis)
- ✚ In good standing with the Catholic Church (able to freely receive the Sacraments)
- ✚ Is at least 16 years old
- ✚ Has already received the Sacrament of Confirmation

Sponsor Information:

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsors: Phone Number: _____

Sponsor's Birthday: _____

Sponsor's Anniversary: _____

Help for Victims of Sexual Abuse

The Archdiocese of Dubuque has established a program of pastoral assistance to people who believe they or those in their care have been sexually abused as minors by clergy or other church personnel. This assistance will include help in informing civil and Church authorities. Victim Assistance Coordinators are trained to facilitate access to appropriate professional mental health services, social service agencies, support groups and/or individuals who can provide spiritual care. Any individual desiring help from this program is invited to call toll free 800-803-6758 or 866-319-4536 to report an allegation or receive assistance. This program is part of the new "Policy for Protection of Minors."

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Confirmation is not the end...
It is the **BEGINNING!**



Growing...

...in the grace of God.

