

ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH - CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM
CONFIRMATION PROJECT PACK 2012-13



***Tear out, complete, and return this page to the Faith Formation Office ASAP.
 Tear out Sponsor Form (last page), get it completed, and return to Faith
 Formation Office ASAP. Return Remainder of packet at Confirmation Retreat***

Candidate's Full Baptismal Name (First, Middle Last):	
Candidate's Confirmation Name (Must be a Saint's Name):	
Sponsor's Name and Home Parish (NOTE: Your sponsor must be a practicing Catholic in good standing registered at a Catholic parish. If your sponsor is not a parishioner at St. A's, they must get their Pastor to sign the Sponsor Slip on the last page of this packet and return it to the Faith Formation office ASAP.)	
Sponsor Name _____	
Sponsor Parish _____	
Candidate's Baptism Information <input type="checkbox"/> Baptized at St. Athanasius <input type="checkbox"/> Baptized elsewhere:	
Church _____	Date of Baptism _____
Church City, State _____	
<i>NOTE! If you were not baptized at St. Athanasius, staple a copy of your baptism certificate to this page</i>	
Candidate's E-Mail Address:	
Candidate's Cell Phone Number:	Candidate's High School Next Year:

ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH

7 Chalfonte Avenue
West View, Pennsylvania 15229
724-931-4624

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Congratulations on your decision to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation!

You began your walk with Jesus Christ at your Baptism, and you been strengthened for the journey by receiving Jesus into your heart in Holy Eucharist.

Now the Sacrament of Confirmation will complete your initiation into the Catholic Church. Through this Sacrament, the Holy Spirit will provide you with special graces that will give you the power to share and defend your faith in Jesus Christ through your words and actions.

At St. Athanasius Parish, the Confirmation Preparation Program includes several parts:

- Two 1 ½ hour classes featuring a DVD by our Bishop, David Zubik;
- An overnight retreat at the Gilmory Retreat Center;
- This Project Pack, which you are asked to complete at home and return at the retreat; and
- A Mass Pack that you are asked to complete as you attend Mass each week;
- Our Sponsor Form, for your sponsor to complete and return to the Faith Formation office.

This Confirmation Preparation Program ensures that you will receive:

- A good understanding of the Sacrament you are about to celebrate;
- An experience of the responsibilities that you will be agreeing to fulfill as a fully initiated Confirmed Catholic;
- An experience of the lifelong spiritual practices that will be necessary as you to continue to grow and develop as a disciple of Jesus.

It is an awesome honor and challenge to be called as a Catholic follower of Jesus Christ. As you go through the final steps of preparing for Confirmation, your parish and all who love you will be praying for you, that your faith will be strong and that your heart will be open all the good things Christ has to offer you.

If you encounter any questions about Confirmation Preparation, or if your parish can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call the Faith Formation Office.

God bless you!

SAINT REPORT & CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME



As Catholics we believe in the “Communion of Saints.” This means that we believe that all people who believe in Christ and are Baptized – those who have died and gone before us into heaven, those here on earth, and even those not yet born -- are a part of Christ, and therefore, we are all connected to each another in a very real way.

When we use the word “saint” we are speaking of two types of people: 1) canonized saints that have been approved by the Church as outstanding examples of Christian holiness, and 2) the millions of everyday saints who are baptized and follow Christ as well as they can.

The Church asks candidates to select a canonized saint’s name as a Confirmation name. By doing this, the candidate asks for the special prayers of that saint, and reflects upon that saint as a model and inspiration for their adult walk with Christ. Candidates are encouraged to choose a saint name that is part of their Baptismal name. But candidates may, instead, choose a different name of a saint who is especially meaningful for them.

PROCEDURE FOR SAINT REPORT

1. Spend some time reading books about saints or going online to research saints. There are saint books in most Faith Formation classrooms and they may be borrowed – but please return them as soon as possible! Good web sites are <http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php> or <http://saints.sqpn.com/> or <http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints/byname.aspx> . Look up the saint names that are part of your Baptismal name, and browse through the others. You will see that some saints are “patrons” for different groups of people. Try to find the name of the patron saints for groups that you might be in: for example students, athletes, future teachers, etc.
2. Pray to God for his guidance, and then choose a Confirmation Name that is the name of a canonized saint.
3. Answer the questions on the reverse side of this sheet or attach a written report on your saint that answers these questions. If you write a report, do original work, and do not copy text directly from web sites. Use legible handwriting or use a computer.

Confirmation Saint Report (continued)

See Reverse Side for Directions

Please write neatly.

If you prefer to type your report, please attach it to this page

Your full name:	Your Confirmation Name
Full name of the saint you have chosen for this report:	Dates of Chosen Saint's Birth and Death:
Where did your saint live?	How did your saint die?
Five important events in the life of this Saint:	Give three or more reasons why you admire this saint and have chosen this saint's name for your Confirmation Name:

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR



A sponsor can make an enormous difference in the preparation of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important, therefore, that you choose a Sponsor who can be a true friend and a good example of the Christian life.

The Church requires that a Sponsor be over the age of 16, and a confirmed and practicing Catholic, (and if married, they must be in a sacramentally valid marriage). Parents cannot be sponsors. Sponsors must have the intention of fulfilling their role as described below.

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. The sponsor is to be a living witness and mentor who represents the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors) to the catechumen. The sponsor, in turn, assures the community of the candidate's readiness for the initiatory sacraments. The role of a sponsor is not over with the celebration of the sacraments. It is seen as a lifetime commitment, a relationship that will last throughout the individual's journey of faith. Candidates are encouraged to select one of their Godparents as a Sponsor, but may select any person who practices the Catholic faith and is willing to be an ongoing part of the candidate's life.

Now is the time to communicate with your sponsor. To help "break the ice" and begin communications at a new and deeper level, set up a time to go over the following questions with your Sponsor and write some brief notes on the answers you receive. You can do this in person, over the phone, by e-mail or even by Skyping!

1. What do you remember about your own Confirmation: When? Where? What was it like?
2. Tell me about a time (or times) when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.
3. What advice can you offer me for my prayer life?
4. What advice can you offer that will help me stay close to God?

Communicating with your Sponsor – See reverse side for directions

5. What Catholic person do you admire most and why?
6. What questions or thoughts do you have for me?
7. Will you please pray for me every day until I am confirmed? Thank you for being my sponsor!

ST ATHANASIUS PARISH – CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM –TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE

CONFIRMATION IS THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE POOR, AND TO HELP BUILD UP THE PARISH COMMUNITY! Fully initiated Catholics are expected to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit regularly, to support the work of their parish (stewardship), and to reach out beyond the parish to help others in need (service) in the name of Jesus Christ. Candidates are encouraged to start to develop now, a lifetime habit of Christian stewardship and service. As part of the Confirmation Preparation process candidates are asked to complete an experience of Stewardship to help the Parish, and an experience of Service to the Poor or Other in Need.



While some opportunities for service and stewardship are provided through Faith Formation classes, Confirmation candidates are encouraged, as part of their Confirmation preparation, to reach out on their own -- to experience the process of choosing a way to serve the Parish and the Poor or others in need -- making a personal commitment, and taking action.

Many students and parents may be tempted to say, "I'm just too busy to add one more activity to my schedule." But as Catholics, we are called and chosen by God for the most important activity of all: bringing the love and good news of Jesus Christ to a troubled world through our loving actions, and through our spoken words –in Christ's name, by Christ's grace.

Families are encouraged to sit down, review priorities, and rearrange them if necessary, to ensure that this important activity is not cast aside in favor of the pursuit of temporary rewards like pleasure, wealth, or personal achievement.

Young people who make room in their lives for service and stewardship will have lives full of meaning and purpose. They will form deep, loving, eternal relationships. They will feel strong - connected to God and to all mankind. They will have a place in this world that is important and fulfilling, regardless of how athletic, gifted, healthy, or popular they are.

If the candidate has difficulties completing a stewardship and/or service experience, please call the Faith Formation Office, and we can help find a solution that works for you.

Ideas for Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure in our Faith Community Every Catholic layperson is called by God to participate in parish ministries in some way, and many are even called to take leadership roles. Here are a few ideas of things to try:

- Attend Mass every Sunday and contribute from your own money to the collection basket.
- Assist with a Youth Ministry Event. Call Caroline Roach for details 412-931-4624 X214 or text/mobile 412-444-5296.
- Be an Altar Server. Call Jim Crnkovic at (412) 931-6540.
- Be a Lector/Proclaimer. Call Bill Palamara at 412-931-4624 X226.
- Join the Choir, become a Cantor, or play an instrument at Mass. Call Steve at 412-931-4624.
- Help with Vacation Bible School or help teach Children's Faith Formation classes or help with babysitting during Masses. Call Mary Reichel at 412-931-4624.
- Volunteer as an usher. Call Carl Weinman at (412) 734-3455.
- Volunteer to help with a Parish Social Event. Call Patrice at 412-931-6633. *(continued)*
- Volunteer to help with the Festival. Call Deacon Bill Palamara at 412-931-4624 X226.
- Volunteer to help with maintenance projects at the Church. Call Deacon Gary Comer at 412-931-4624.
- Find a parish committee or ministry that interests you and get involved in it. *(continued)*

Ideas for Christian Service to the Poor and Others in Need – *NEW: This year the parish is sponsoring an opportunity for students and parents to participate together in food distribution for the Pittsburgh Food Bank at a Produce to People distribution site. The two dates are December 8th 7:30 – 4:00 PM or December 12th 7:30 – 4:00 PM. To choose this option, complete and return the enclosed "Produce to People" registration form before November 10th.*

Students who choose not to participate in the Produce to People service days should try to do one of the following substitute projects things together with a sponsor, older sibling or a parent and discuss the experience together afterwards. Remember that Christian service is done "in the name of Jesus Christ" and choose service where you are not expected or pressured to hide your Catholic identity. When we do Christian service we identify ourselves clearly as followers of Christ, we pray for Christ's grace before doing the service, and we thank God for the privilege and opportunity to help his beloved children. We

recognize that we do not act from our own power, but from the grace of God. Here are some ideas of things you might choose to do.

- Volunteer to help at the St. A's Day of Service, this Friday, October 29th. Call Deacon Bill at 412-931-4624 x226.
- Collect canned goods, non-perishable food items, paper products and/or toiletries for Little Sisters of the Poor. Drop off to the Community Center or the back of Church by November 19th.
- Sign up to take Youth Group Mission Hoagies to a place that feeds the poor (The Red Door, Miryam's, Bethlehem Haven, etc.) Call Zach Everett for details 412-931-4624 x 214.
- Volunteer to help at the St. A's Thanksgiving Dinner. Call Sister Corinne for details 412-931-4624 X212.
- Participate (with your parent or sponsor) in the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank's "Produce to People" program for a time or location not offered at St. A's, and distribute food to the poor. Check out their web site at <http://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/programs/produce.aspx> or call (412) 460-3663.
- Sign up together with a parent or sponsor to serve a dinner at Light of Life Mission, Jubilee Soup Kitchen, or a similar group. The number for Light of Life Mission is 412-258-6100. The number for Jubilee Soup Kitchen is 412-261-5417.
- Gather a group of friends and sing Christmas carols at a local nursing home or provide some other assistance. Call a local nursing home to see what they are in need of and when they would like to have you come.
- Help someone in your own family or neighborhood who is poor, disabled, sick, sad, or lonely -- and in need of your help.
- Attend the Lovewalk for the Poor with a parent or sponsor, February 12, 2012. Bring baby items, diapers, and non-perishable food for the poor.

REFLECT ON YOUR STEWARDSHIP AND MATURE CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Service Reflection Questions will be posted on the youth ministry website:
www.stathanasiuswv.org click on "Youth Ministry"

Click on Service Reflection Questions on the home page to be directed to a PDF of reflection questions to talk about with your sponsor. There are questions for BEFORE and AFTER service.

If you are unable to access questions via the web, let Caroline know and she will get a copy of Service Reflection Questions to you. croach@stathanasiuswv.org or 412-444-5296

Name _____

Write your answers below:

How have you chosen to exercise good stewardship in the parish?

How have you chosen to help the poor or others in need?

CANDIDATE'S LETTER TO THE PASTOR



CANDIDATE NAME _____

Dear Father Bob, I feel ready to assume the privileges and responsibilities of a fully initiated Catholic, and wish to be Confirmed at St. Athanasius Parish. I understand that sincere and thorough preparation is important for this Sacrament, and have prepared in the following ways:

I HAVE LEARNED WHAT CONFIRMATION IS. (For this section or for any other section, please feel free to attach pages if you wish to write more.)

Confirmation is: _____

I WANT TO BE CONFIRMED. I have prayed about my decision to be Confirmed and want to be Confirmed because:

I PARTICIPATED IN THE PREPARATION CLASSES REQUIRED BY THE DIOCESE:

- I attended two 1 ½ hour Confirmation classes at my parish that featured Bishop Zubic's video.
- I participated in the classes elsewhere (please describe when and where):

I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS:

- I attended at least 70% of the Faith Formation classes offered for 7th and 8th grade at St Athanasius
- I participated in, and completed another form of Faith Formation in 7th and 8th grade as follows:

Where _____ Type of Program: Catholic School Other _____

- I did not complete Faith Formation in 7th and/or 8th grade and have made up these studies as follows:

(describe) _____

I HAVE DONE SPIRITUAL PREPARATION (Special Times of Prayer and Sacraments).

- I attended Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil Mass).
- I participated in St. Athanasius' Confirmation Retreat.
- I have read my Bible or other spiritual books and/or prayed regularly.
- I have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation within the past year.
- I participated in another form of spiritual preparation _____

I HAVE BEGUN TO EXERCISE MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT MY CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE. I have shared my time and talent and treasure with the parish in the following ways:

_____ (continued on reverse)

Or I plan to share time, talent, and treasure with the parish in the future in the following ways:

Youth Ministry

Other _____

I HAVE BEGUN TO FULFILL CHRIST'S CALL TO SERVE TO OTHERS IN NEED. I have provided service to other people in need (the poor, the sick, the lonely, the disabled, the elderly) in the following ways:

I plan to provide service to other people in need in the future in the following ways:

I PLAN TO CONTINUE MY FAITH FORMATION. I know that God calls me to keep growing throughout my life in faith knowledge and friendship with Christ. I plan to do this in the following ways:

Participate in Youth Ministry at St. Athanasius Parish

Other: _____

MY FEELINGS:

I feel excited, happy, and ready to be Confirmed

If you have any questions or concerns about Confirmation, your parish is here to help you. Please call Zach Everett, Youth Minister – or Father Bob, Pastor – Or Mary Reichel, Director of Religious Education for any assistance you may need.

Candidate's Name _____

Candidate's Signature _____

Date _____

St Athanasius Parish - Confirmation Sponsor Form

Tear this page out and complete it as well as you can. If your Sponsor is not a parishioner at St. A's, complete the top part and then give it to your Sponsor so they can get the Pastor endorsement. The completed form must be turned in to the Faith Formation Office before Confirmation. Return completed form to: St. Athanasius Parish, Faith Formation Office, 7 Chalfonte Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15229 . Questions? Call (412) 931-4624 x213

The Church's tradition of involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Confirmation is one of our most ancient approaches to faith formation. The sponsor is to be a living witness and mentor who represents the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) to the candidate. The sponsor, in turn, assure the community of the candidate's readiness for the initiatory sacraments. The role of a sponsor is not completed with the celebration of the sacraments. It is seen as a lifetime commitment, a relationship that will last throughout the individual's journey of faith.

Part 1: Basic Information

Confirmation Candidate's Name _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Address _____

Part 2: Sponsor's Parish. Check one.

- () **Sponsor is an active member of St. Athanasius Parish**, attending Mass weekly, and if married, is in a sacramentally valid marriage. Skip down to Part 3.
- () **Sponsor is an active member of another parish** (not St. Athanasius) , attends Mass regularly, and if married, is in a sacramentally valid marriage. Complete section below:

Sponsor's Parish (Name) _____

Sponsor's Parish (Full Address) _____

Sponsor's Pastor Endorsement: If the Sponsor is not from St. Athanasius Parish, either ask the Pastor to complete this section or attach a *Sponsor Slip* from the Sponsor's Parish.

I certify that the above-named individual is a member of the parish indicated above and is qualified to be a Sponsor for Confirmation.

Pastor's Name (Print) _____

AFFIX
PARISH SEAL
HERE

Pastor's Signature _____

Date _____

Part 3: Sponsor's Statement

I affirm that I am fully initiated in the Roman Catholic Church and have received for following Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If married, I am in a sacramentally valid marriage. I participate in Eucharistic Liturgy on Sundays (or Saturday evening vigil Masses) and receive Eucharist and Reconciliation at least once a year. I contribute to the support of my parish with my time and financial resources. I am at least 16 years of age and I am not a parent of the Candidate. I plan to provide regular and on-going support to the Confirmation Candidate listed above, through prayer and friendship, and will strive to provide a good example of the Christian life.

Sponsor's Signature _____ Date _____