

**ST. JAMES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
80 Seamans Neck Road, Seaford, NY 11783  
Phone Number - (516) 796-2979

October 6, 2009

Dear Parents and Candidates for Confirmation:

Now that all candidates have begun the final phase for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we would like to remind the student of his/her commitment of last year, and draw your attention to the requirements that each candidate is expected to fulfill this year.

- **Confirmation Retreat Day** – Candidates are required to attend **ONE** prayer day on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009** – Rooms 204, 206, 214, 215, 216, Wed 208  
**OR**  
**Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009** – Rooms 114, 201, 203, 205, 213, LaSalle students

from **1:00 pm to 5:00 pm** in the parish center. All candidates will attend 4:00 pm Mass in the church. If you cannot attend on your scheduled day, you may attend the other date. Please let the office know if you are changing sessions.

- **Confirmation Fee** - \$100.00 fee covers the cost of gowns, medallions, certificates, etc. Payable to St. James – due January 5, 2010.
- **Sponsors** – each candidate should choose a sponsor. The person should be a confirmed practicing catholic at least 16 years of age.
- **Name** – The candidate may choose a Saint's name for Confirmation or may use his/her baptismal name.
- **Letter** – Each candidate is required to write a letter to the Pastor, Reverend Robert S. Hewes, requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- **Apostolic Service** – Each candidate is required to perform **10 hours** of community service. This service must be done for someone outside the immediate family and the candidate should not receive any financial or material compensation.
- **Homily Reflection Sheets** – Each candidate must write a reflection on the Gospel and Homily for **THREE** Sunday Masses during the year. These Mass sheets should be returned to their teachers as they are completed.

The Bishop will notify us with a date for Confirmation. We usually receive the date sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thank you for your cooperation and please don't hesitate to call our office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie T. Labeck and Marianne Mirkow  
Coordinators of Religious Education

# 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIREMENTS

## PROJECTS

## TO BE COMPLETED BY:

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Attend Confirmation Retreat                         | November 7, 2009<br>or<br>November 21, 2009 |
| 2. | Confirmation Fee - \$100 payable<br>To "St. James"  | January 5, 2010                             |
| 3. | Choose a Sponsor (pages 3-4)                        | January 5, 2010                             |
| 4. | Choose your Confirmation Name<br>(page 5)           | January 5, 2010                             |
| 5. | Letter Requesting Confirmation<br>(page 6)          | January 5, 2010                             |
| 6. | Complete Community Service<br>(pages 7-8)           | February 23, 2010                           |
| 7. | Complete 3 Homily Reflection Sheets<br>(pages 9-12) | As completed -<br>Latest February 23, 2010  |

## **Project # 3**

# **YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR**

### **Why a Sponsor?**

From the earliest days of the Church, specific people chosen from the community supported those seeking communion with the Church. At your Baptism those significant people were your parents and godparents (your baptismal sponsors) who promised that you would be raised in the faith. They professed their faith because you could not speak for yourself. Your godparents promised to help your parents. In Confirmation you will speak for yourself and you will renew your Baptismal promises. The sponsor will stand with you and present you to the Bishop for Confirmation.

In choosing a sponsor, Church law gives us some requirements that must be met:

- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) who “leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.”
- A sponsor must not be a parent of the one to be confirmed.

### **Role of Sponsor**

The person you ask to be your sponsor should know you well enough to be able to testify, by his or her presence before the community, that you are someone who wishes to be fully incorporated in the Church as a believing, practicing Catholic: that you are one who takes part faithfully in the Church’s worship, witness, and mission. When you are anointed with the chrism during Confirmation, your sponsor will be beside you with a hand placed on your shoulder. This is a sign of your spiritual relationship.

If you have not yet chosen your sponsor, now is an excellent time to think about your choice. Ask yourself:

- Is this person someone with whom I feel comfortable?
- Does this person live near enough to me to be truly able to be a guide and support?
- Will this person be willing and able to be my sponsor – to take an active role in my faith life?

## Project # 3

### YOUR CHOICE FOR YOUR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

In preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, each candidate must finalize his/her choice of a sponsor.

Name of Confirmation Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Home Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor's Responsibility** – *It is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligation connected with this sacrament (Canon 892).*

**Parents cannot function as sponsors** for the sacraments of initiation, because persons cannot be both parents and godparents to their children according to Canon Law.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- A validly baptized Catholic
- Must be living as a confirmed, practicing Catholic
- Cannot be either parent
- Sponsor can be baptismal Godparent

#### **IF THE SPONSOR IS “NOT” A MEMBER OF ST. JAMES PARISH**

**He/she must be a member in good standing of their parish and provide a certificate of eligibility. The candidate should fill out the top portion of this form and ask their sponsor to:**

**EITHER bring this form to their home parish to be completed with the Parish seal and Pastor signature,**

**OR ask their home parish for their own version of the certificate of eligibility.**

**Signature of Pastor/Priest/Deacon:**

**Parish Seal:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## Project # 4

### YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME

One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. *You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to exemplify.* You might want to recommit yourself to your baptismal name, especially after you have reflected on it's meaning and discovered some of the great people who shared your name in Christian history. After all, Confirmation is really the completion of the Baptism experience. Whether you decide to pick a new name or stay with your baptismal name, you will want to explore quite thoroughly the root meaning of the name.

### WHAT NAME WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Each candidate must research the **SAINT** whose name you have chosen for Confirmation. In about 150-200 words, give a brief account of the life and works of the Saint.

## Project # 5

### Outline of your Letter to the Pastor Requesting

### THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Now that you have determined to publicly affirm what you believe about Jesus and His Church, it is time for you to formally ask our Pastor, Rev. Robert S. Hewes, for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

[DATE]

Rev. Robert S. Hewes, Pastor  
St. James Parish  
80 Hicksville Road  
Seaford, New York 11783

Dear Father Hewes:

*[Explain that you have been preparing for Confirmation and that now you would like to request the Sacrament.*

*Explain why you want to be Confirmed.*

*Describe how you have prepared for Confirmation.*

*Name the person (your sponsor) you have chosen to present you during the Confirmation Ceremony and tell why you chose this person.*

*Finally, tell how you hope to live the gifts of the Spirit as a member of the Parish of St. James.]*

*[Candidate's Signature]*

*[Have your parents/guardian witness the letter with their signatures]*

This letter should be typed or neatly handwritten placed in an envelope with the candidate's name on it. Please hand it in to your teacher by January 5, 2010.

## Project # 6

# CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT

### Guidelines for Service

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ, who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the Christian community.
- The giving of service should continue after your Confirmation and all through your life.

Below are listed suggestions of ways in which you can serve others selflessly (no remuneration). We require that you complete **a minimum of TEN HOURS of service.** When completed, fill out the Service Project Cards and submit to your teacher.

1. Visit the elderly – in senior citizen residences or homes.
2. Perform volunteer work in your neighborhood, school or church.
3. Help a handicapped person or support the family of a handicapped child by playing with or caring for the child.
4. Participate in a walk-a-thon to support your favorite charity.
5. Contribute your services to the local library.
6. Initiate a clean-up campaign in a local playground, street, park, etc.
7. Help a teacher before or after school.
8. Visit with and help to take care of someone who is sick.
9. Care for lawns, rake leaves or clear the snow for elderly or sick neighbors.
10. Do some service for senior citizens or shut-ins in your neighborhood by shopping, gardening or housekeeping.
11. Contribute your services to the Parish. (Parish – 731-3710 or Parish Outreach – 735-8690 assist with preparing Holiday food baskets).
12. Other – must be approved by the Religious Education Office as a suitable Apostolic Service.

## Project # 6

### SERVICE PROJECT CARD

Candidate's Name; \_\_\_\_\_ Room No: \_\_\_\_\_

My Service Project: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did you help? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person you helped: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to your teacher no later than February 23, 2010.**

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## Project # 6

### SERVICE PROJECT CARD

Candidate's Name; \_\_\_\_\_ Room No: \_\_\_\_\_

My Service Project: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did you help? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person you helped: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Date of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to your teacher no later than February 23, 2010.**

## Project # 7

### HOMILY REFLECTION SHEETS

We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures. If we are to live out the Word of God we need to reflect on what these words mean to us.

Each candidate must write a reflection on the Gospel and Homily for **THREE** Sunday Masses during the year. These Mass sheets should be returned to your teachers as they are completed.

Suggestions on how to write these papers:

- Bring a piece of paper with you to church and write down some thoughts or words you hear in the Gospel and homily.
- Write down the Scripture reference (e.g. Luke 5:1-5) so you can refer back to it when you are writing the paper.
- Discuss what you heard and wrote down on the way home in the car, asking everyone to participate.
- Ask yourself and your family what the Scripture and Homily have to do with your life today.
- When you get home, write your reflection on the Mass sheet while it is fresh in your mind.

Remember, this is a reflection paper; what you write is what you *feel* the Scripture is saying to **YOU** at this moment in your life's journey.





