

**CONFIRMATION / EUCHARIST INFORMATION PACKET**  
**The Church of St. Rita**  
**2008-2009**

**Dates for Confirmation / First Eucharist**  
**To Be Announced**

**Attendance**

Please plan to attend (parent and child) All 8 Sacramental Preparation Gatherings, weekly Mass, and PSR classes. Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the completion of the Eucharist and Reconciliation Workbooks is expected. I realize the time and commitment that is necessary for a meaningful and faithful preparation of sacraments.

**Initiation Sacraments Candidate Form**

Please complete the St. Rita Parish Initiation Sacraments Candidate Form, especially the name and address of the Parish of Baptism. The information on the form is necessary in order to record Sacraments in our parish books as well as informing your child's parish of baptism. **In order to secure your date, all paperwork listed on the INITIATION SACRAMENTS CANDIDATE FORM** must be completed and returned to Joan at the Resource Center at least three weeks prior to Confirmation and First Eucharist date. Mass dates and times are filled "first come." We will not "pencil in" dates. The number of candidates celebrating at a particular Mass is limited. We will notify you immediately if the Mass date/time is full, paperwork is incomplete or there is a conflict. You will receive confirmation of your date by phone or e-mail.

**Baptismal Certificate**

Please enclose a COPY of the candidate's Baptismal certificate for verification if the candidate was baptized at a parish other than St. Rita or not turned in at PSR registration. St. Rita Day School Students: we must have a copy of the Baptismal certificates even though they were presented at the school for registration.

**Confirmation Name**

The confirmation name symbolizes the new person in Christ and the conversion in us as we deepen our faith and relationship with Jesus. Today the candidate is encouraged to select his/her Baptismal name as the confirmation name because Confirmation seals/completes Baptism. In most cases, the baptismal name is the middle name. If the candidate wishes to select another name, consider the name of a saint whose life is a model for the candidate. The first name or birth name is usually not the confirmation name. Please print clearly your child's Confirmation Name as you want it to appear on the Confirmation / First Eucharist certificate.

## **Confirmation Sponsors**

The Church recognizes Confirmation sponsors as people who are spiritual friends, companions and witnesses entrusted by the parish to journey with the candidate. Selecting a sponsor can be challenging. Review the qualifications with a potential sponsor before asking in order to determine if they are eligible. It is appropriate that the sponsor be one of the Baptismal Godparents. Sponsors are asked to be involved in the Sacramental Preparation and Formation as much as possible. Once you have selected the sponsor, **immediately give him/her the Sponsor Envelope.**

### **Confirmation Sponsor Qualifications**

*(source: Diocese of Cleveland, Guidelines for Confirmation)*

- 16 years of age or older
- Fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (Baptized, Confirmed and receiving Eucharist)
- In good standing with the church
- Exemplifies Catholic life
- Registered and active in a Catholic parish
- Practicing Catholic who participates in weekly Eucharistic celebration
- Someone other than the mother or father of the person to be confirmed

### **Confirmation Sponsor Responsibilities**

The sponsor is asked to obtain a Sponsor Certificate as quickly as possible from his/her Parish. This certificate is part of your paper work that needs to be turned in to secure the date of your choice for Confirmation and First Eucharist. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to willingly agree to pray and participate in Sacramental preparation as much as possible. They are invited but not required to attend the Preparation Gatherings. The sponsor presents the candidate to the Priest and stands with the candidate at the time of the Anointing with the Chrism oil, which completes Confirmation.

### **Confirmation Sponsor Certificate**

A Sponsor certificate is a statement from the parish where the sponsor is registered that testifies he/she is a fully initiated, practicing Catholic in that parish and is able to fulfill the role of sponsor for a candidate to be confirmed in the Catholic church.

**If your sponsor is a parishioner of St. Rita, he/she will still need to request a Sponsor's certificate from the Rectory.** It is the policy of St. Rita Parish that all confirmation sponsors obtain a sponsor certificate.

Each parish has its own procedure for obtaining this certificate and its own certificate format. Most certificates are to be signed by the sponsor and a member of the parish staff. The parish will stamp the certificate with the parish seal. **If the candidate's name is not on the certificate, please write it on the top of the certificate.**

Please have the sponsor give the certificate to you or mail it directly to the Parish Resource Center using the addressed envelope provided in the Sponsor Packet. Some parishes may prefer to send the certificate to The Church of St. Rita directly.

### **Christian Service for Life!**

Jesus taught us to love and serve one another. Service is rooted in our Baptism and is an ongoing expression of our love for God through care and concern for others. The families and sponsors are encouraged to offer service (time, talent and treasure) at home, in the parish, at school, in the local or global community during preparation for Confirmation and First Eucharist. Please talk with your child/children about what difference it makes in the lives of those you serve and how it helps all of us to grow as fully initiated, actively participating Catholics.

#### ***St. Rita Parish Service Opportunities:***

- Epiphany: Baking for the third Saturday of the month
- Interfaith Hospitality Network: Cooking, baking or helping with evening activities at Resource Center during their visits.
- St. Vincent DePaul: (Contact: Tom Eldridge 330-425-7162) Donations of food, household supplies, cleaning products and gentle worn clothing can be dropped off in baskets in Gathering Space or by St. Mark Chapel
- Social Concerns Committee (Contact: Daphne Held 440-498-2269)
- Check bulletin, school newsletter and PSR notes for additional suggestions and opportunities to serve.

### **Dress for Candidates**

In remembrance of and in close connection with your child's Baptism, you may choose to wear white in some way.

- Girls: a dress, appropriate for a religious service; many choose to wear a white dress but other pale colors, simple patterns and styles are appropriate.
- Boys: dress slacks and white shirt with tie; suit, sport coat, vest or sweater is optional.

### **Wallet Size Photo**

For Confirmation / First Eucharist, it is a tradition at St. Rita Parish to **display a photo of the Candidates in the Gathering Area**. Please send in a photo no larger than **2 ½ x 3 ½**. We reserve the right to crop photos if necessary. Initial the candidate form giving us permission to display the name and photo of your child. School photos are appropriate. **If you do not want your child's name and photo made public, please clearly state this on the form.** I will be keeping the photos in my office to help me learn/remember the names and faces of the children and to pray for them regularly. No one else will have access to the photos. I will return your photo at your request.

### **Celebrating Confirmation / First Eucharist**

On April 2, Gathering 8, we will practice for Confirmation and First Eucharist. It would be advantageous for the sponsor to attend. Details outlining the procedure at the mass, seating, gift bearers, processions and the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation and First Eucharist will follow in January.

This is a blessed and sacred experience for the parents and family as well as for the child. The purpose of the preparation is to draw your family closer to Christ and to grow in faith, hope and love as a Catholic community actively worshipping, learning and witnessing to our faith in the world throughout our lifetime. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or e-mail me.

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