

St. Anthony of Padua Children's Faith Formation Office

260 Forest Ave. ♦ Ambler, PA 19002 ♦ 215-646-6150 x2

Angela Lawlor, Director of Religious Education ♦ alawlor@saintanthonyparish.org

Dear St. Anthony Families with young people eligible for Confirmation,

Enclosed is important information regarding preparation for Confirmation at St. Anthony of Padua Parish. As a courtesy to vacation schedules this time of year, staff has opted to forward this information via mail rather than request your presence at a meeting. Please return this courtesy by carefully reading all of the enclosed and returning the Confirmation Application with the Confirmation Name and Sponsor the candidate has chosen as soon as possible.

Don't miss the following pieces of information:

- **The Confirmation Application** (white paper) must include both the chosen Confirmation Name and Sponsor information before being returned.
- **Important Confirmation Information & Dates:** (yellow paper) Mark these events on your family calendar and plan accordingly. Spirit Camp and Retreat are vital for all candidates. Please give these events the utmost priority as the benefits to your candidate are invaluable.
- **Choosing a Confirmation Name** (green paper) Please share this information with your candidate and encourage them to use the internet resources to help candidates select a name that is meaningful to them.
- **Choosing a Sponsor and Sponsor Requirements** (pink paper) The Sponsor side lists the Canon Law requirements for a sponsor. All sponsors must obtain a Letter of Eligibility from their home parish including sponsors from St. Anthony.

Finally, I sent out an email via my database to alert you to the arrival of this mailed information. IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM ME, PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE IT WAS NOT REDIRECTED TO YOUR 'SPAM OR JUNK FILE' and then send me an email at alawlor@saintanthonyparish.org. I will check your family email address against my database information so that you do not miss any future updates and reminders.

Thank you and if I can be of further help do not hesitate to contact me!

In peace,

Angela Lawlor
Director of Religious Education

APPLICATION FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Complete or correct the information below. Please type or print clearly.

Name of person to be confirmed: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Best Phone: _____ home cell

Best Email: _____

RECORD OF BAPTISM (Information as recorded on Baptismal Certificate)

Exact Date of Baptism: _____
(Include Month/day/year)

Church of Baptism: _____

City: _____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____
(First Name and Maiden Name)

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Confirmation Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

* The Sponsor must obtain a Letter of Eligibility from the rectory of his/her parish which certifies that he/she is a confirmed and practicing Catholic.*

Important Confirmation Information to Note



Listed below are St. Anthony Confirmation Program dates. I respectfully ask that these dates hold the utmost priority on your calendar. Please allow your candidate to experience the sacrifice of not attending a conflicting sporting event/party and then reap the blessing which is sure to follow. Let's work to do our best to set the stage for God to act with his grace and power thus granting our candidates the spiritual resources they will need to meet their life challenges.

- 1. ASAP: Be sure that your candidate registers for the 2017 Confirmation Preparation Program here at St. Anthony's by completing / correcting and returning the enclosed "Application for Confirmation" via mail or scan and return via email.**
 - Applications MUST INCLUDE CONFIRMATION NAME AND SPONSOR information.
 - Confirmation name and Sponsor guidelines are included in this packet.
 - All future information will be forwarded to you VIA EMAIL so it is vital that you include a current email address on the form. Using email communications allows our program to save postage costs as well as provide quick update notifications and reminders.
- 2. SUNDAY, SEPT. 17: SPIRIT CAMP** for Candidates and Sponsors or Parents
 - Friendship Hall immediately following the 11:15 parish Mass
 - Sandwich style lunch will be provided from 12:15-12:45 and the afternoon activities will end at 3:30 PM.
 - This is afternoon of hands on activities is specially designed to kick off the intensive preparation for Confirmation. Because of the interactive activities and the amount of information shared, a Sponsor or parent must accompany all candidates.
- 3. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18: ROBE ORDERS AND PAYMENT DUE**
- 4. SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd: FAITH IN ACTION 'DONUTS AND DISCIPLESHIP'** Service Project to benefit Cards for Hospitalized Kids in Friendship Hall following the 9:15am and 11:15am Parish Mass
- 5. SUNDAY, OCT. 29: ALL SAINTS HALL OF FAME** after the 9:15 Parish Mass
- 6. SATURDAY, NOV. 18: CONFIRMATION RETREAT FOR CANDIDATES**
Held in the Education Center's Multipurpose Room 2-5 PM
- 7. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20: INTERVIEWS AND CONFESSION FOR CANDIDATES**
Both candidate and sponsor or parent must attend – may choose either 4:30-5:30 or 6:30-8:00 session in Friendship Hall

8. **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30: CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL**
Both candidates and sponsor or parent are to meet in Church from 7-8:30 PM

9. **SATURDAY, DEC. 2 : CONFIRMATION LITURGY 11 AM**
The Most Reverend Joseph F. Martino, Bishop Emeritus of Scranton, will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation.

Questions or concerns? Contact Angela Lawlor, Director of Religious Education

Phone: Children's Faith Formation Office at 215-646-6150 x 2
Mail: St. Anthony CFF Office, 260 Forest Ave., Ambler, PA 19002
Email: alawlor@saintanthonyparish.org

Why and how to choose a Confirmation name?

At Baptism, you were given a Christian name as a sign of your new identity as a follower of Jesus. At Confirmation, you have the opportunity to take a second, or Confirmation, name to add to your baptismal name. This name should express something of your inner self or what you hope to become-the ideal or goal you are setting for yourself as a Christian.

In ancient societies names held a great significance. Names were intended to express the very essence of the person and was thought to direct the person's destiny. It is interesting to note the Bible stories of people whose names were changed. Abram's name, for example, was changed to Abraham to signify his new identity as the father of God's people. Jacob's name was changed to Israel to signify the nation that would be made up of his descendants. The name of the apostle Simon was changed to Peter, the rock upon which Jesus would build his church. The name of Saul was changed to Paul, signifying his conversion to Christ.

In much the same way, the name by which you wish to be called when you are sealed with the Spirit should signify your resolve and commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus and member of the Church. Think about this...

Do you have a relative or friend whom you admire because they live their faith as Jesus did...choose their name for your Confirmation name.

Are you interested in a special cause like protecting the environment, caring for the poor, healing the sick? Find out what the patron saint of that cause might be and pick that name. Have you ever read or heard about someone who is a real life hero...choose that name.

The saint whose name you choose can become an intercessor on your behalf in heaven. You simply need to ask them to be your advocate so give this choice some careful thought.

Internet resources that will help you decide which saint's name you would like to choose for Confirmation:

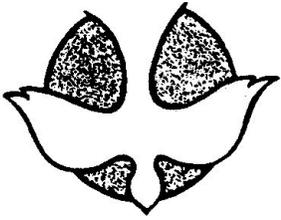
www.catholic.org/saints

<http://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

<http://saints.sqpn.com/>

Once you have chosen your Confirmation Name write it on your Confirmation Application before you return it to Mrs. Lawlor in the CFF Office.

Confirmation Sponsors



Dear Candidate:

Confirmation can be a great experience and hopefully you will begin to think a lot about what this sacrament means and how the Holy Spirit will affect your life. The *Catechism* (#1311) and Canon Law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a sponsor for Confirmation. A good sponsor is someone who will guide you and share the story of faith with you. A

good sponsor can also make this process a little easier and even fun.

If all has gone as planned, the best person to act as your sponsor will be one of your baptismal godparents. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. However sometimes this is not possible and you will need to choose a new sponsor.

In choosing a sponsor you are looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. But you also need to select a person who fulfills the following qualifications:

Qualifications of a Sponsor as determined by Canon Law

He or she:

1. Must be at least 16 years old;
2. Must be a Catholic who has received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation;
3. Must be living a life of faith;
- *Sponsors are required to submit a Letter of Eligibility from their home parish**
4. **Cannot be the parent of the Confirmation candidate**

Responsibilities of St. Anthony Confirmation Sponsors

- 1- Attend Candidate/Sponsor Spirit Camp, Candidate Interview, Rehearsal and Confirmation Liturgy;
- 2- Supervise the candidate's preparation, seeing to it that he/she attends classes and fulfills religious education program requirements;
- 3- Sign a Recommendation Statement to testify to the sincerity and efforts of the candidate in preparing for Confirmation;
- 4- Provide a good Catholic example while praying for the candidate;
- 5- Continue to encourage the candidate to become actively involved in St. Anthony's parish life and worship as a newly confirmed member.

If the sponsor of record is out of town or for some other reason is unable to take an active part in the preparation of the candidate as outlined above, a parent must commit to fulfilling the sponsor's responsibilities. However should the sponsor not be able to attend the Confirmation Liturgy, a proxy (not a parent) can stand in for the sponsor.

Finally, all Sponsors are required to secure a Letter of Eligibility from their home parish (including those who belong to St. Anthony) certifying that they meet all canon law requirements to be a Confirmation Sponsor.

**This important paperwork may be mailed directly to: St. Anthony CFF Office,
260 Forest Ave., Ambler PA, 19002 or the Sponsor's parish office may email a copy directly to me
alawlor@saintanthonyparish.org**

For Sponsors...

Congratulations on being chosen to be a Sponsor for one of our Confirmation Candidates at St. Anthony of Padua Parish! You have been chosen because this young person sees in you a profound faith commitment and knows you are someone who cares about them and their faith.

Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate...

- ❖ **Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be this might be a call from God to become all that you can be. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- ❖ **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.
- ❖ **Give of your time and share your gifts.** You'll be asked to share your time and to encourage your candidate to make the most of his or her Confirmation preparation activities.

At St. Anthony of Padua Parish we invite all our sponsors to participate in...

- Spirit Camp (September 17)
- Donuts & Discipleship – (October 22 – only if you'd like to accompany your candidate for this service project after the 9:15am or 11:15 Parish Masses)
- Confirmation Retreat (Nov. 18 - only if you'd like to accompany your candidate)
- Candidate Interview (Nov. 20 - where you sign a Recommendation Statement to testify to the sincerity and efforts of the candidate in preparing for Confirmation)
- Rehearsal (Nov. 30 - 7 PM)
- Confirmation Liturgy (Dec. 2 at 11 AM)

You might also want to offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name.

- ❖ **Don't miss the ceremony.** Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder and to tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation Day is only the beginning.
- ❖ **Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic.** After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

Thank you and may God bless you and your candidate!