

# *The Church of the Blessed Sacrament*

10 Diamond Street, Walpole, MA 02081 – 508-668-4700 – FAX 508-668-3554

July 21, 2011

Greetings, potential Confirmation Candidate! I hope you and your family are having a wonderful summer.

This packet is for everyone who successfully completed Year I of our Confirmation program last year, and therefore is ready to start Year II



As a reminder, when you were younger, you were either part of the religious education program at Blessed Sacrament, or at another church; or you received your religious education at a Catholic school. But Confirmation is different. The Confirmation program is a two-year program which helps to prepare you to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Sacraments are not received at school; you receive your sacraments through a church. So even if you go to a Catholic high school, you still prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation through your church; either Blessed Sacrament, or another church.

Receiving the sacrament of Confirmation does not mean you have “graduated from CCD”, or that you have learned all there is to know about what it means to be a Catholic. What it does mean is that you have decided be fully initiated into the Church and sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit which strengthen you to live out your Christian life in the world. You want to continue along the faith journey that your parents started you on when they had you baptized many years ago. ***As you think about whether or not you wish to enter the program, please note that Confirmation is NOT necessary to be married in the Church. It is only required if you become a godparent or sponsor. So your overriding reason to be Confirmed should be your desire to continue on your faith journey as a Catholic young adult.***

If you decide you want to continue the Confirmation program at Blessed Sacrament please fill out the registration materials and send them in by **Friday, September 9**.

In this packet you will find:

- A Schedule and the Expectations of the Confirmation Program; this is for you to keep.
- A Registration Form; please fill out and return by Sept. 9.
- A Discipline Policy; please sign and return by Sept. 9.
- A Sponsor Form; please fill out and return by Sept. 9.
- Volunteer Application for any parents willing to get involved. Please include with the other materials you turn in.

I am looking forward to getting to know the Blessed Sacrament community and to my work with each of you in the Confirmation program. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

***Margaret Bouffard***

Coordinator of Youth Ministry



# *The Church of the Blessed Sacrament*

## **Confirmation Schedule, 2011-2012**

### Years I and II

You and your parent(s) have decided that you want to be confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church. We celebrate that choice and have designed a two year program to help you be ready to receive the sacrament. You prepare to be Confirmed at Blessed Sacrament by completing all the elements in the two year program.

**All Year I Confirmation candidates are expected to attend an Orientation Session with their sponsor or a parent/guardian.**

**The Orientation for Year I candidates is on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 4:30-6:30PM, in the Blessed Sacrament Church\*.**

\* We will meet in the church for the mandatory Orientation, to explain what is expected of the Confirmation candidates, and what is asked of their parents and sponsors. As part of the Orientation, all candidates and their parent (or sponsor) will participate in a special "Rite of Entrance", as part of our 5:30 Mass. This is an important beginning to the Confirmation program. **Year I Candidates and a parent or sponsor should plan to attend this Mass, rather than a Mass earlier in the day; they should bring their signed covenant forms, which will be used during the Mass.**

### **Date for Year I Candidates and Their Parent**

**Sunday, Sept. 25, 4:30-6:30PM; Orientation for Year I Candidates only**

This session is for Year I Candidates only. Your parent needs to come to this session, too.

### **Session Dates for both Year I and Year II Candidates**

We meet for all sessions in the Blessed Sacrament School Auditorium

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011; 4:30 – 7:30PM

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, March 11, 2012; 4:30-7:30

SNOW DATE: Sunday, March 25, 2012; 4:30-7:30PM

### **Retreat Dates**

**Year I: Sunday, October 30, 2011; 8:30AM-3:30PM**

(All Year I Candidates will be going on their retreat on the same day.)

**Year II: Sunday, January 22 OR Sunday, March 4; 9AM-6:30PM**

(The candidates' small groups will be assigned to one of the days.)

### **Confirmation for Year II Candidates**

**Saturday, April 28, 2011 at 10:30AM and 1:30PM.**

*Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday, April 25, between 6 and 9PM. More details will follow in the spring.*



# 2011-2012 Confirmation Program

Here are the program's four expectations:

## 1. Attend and Participate in ALL Monthly Sessions, as well as the Orientation in September. (Only ONE *EXCUSED* absence is allowed for the entire year.)

Sessions are once a month on Sundays from 4:30-7:30PM, and include everyone participating in our 5:30PM Mass; a snack is served after Mass, followed by our small group discussions.

**Confirmation candidates are expected to be there for the *entire session*, (before Mass, during Mass, and after Mass...)** in order to be considered to have completed the program.

If candidates have some other regular commitment that occurs on Sunday evenings, that they cannot miss for our monthly Confirmation sessions, then they will not be able to commit to the Confirmation program at our parish this year. The dates for this year's orientation and monthly sessions are on the other side of this sheet.

## 2. Participate in a Service Project with Your Group

In addition to the sessions, Confirmation candidates participate in **one service project each year, with their small group, not on their own.** We focus on one of the corporal works of mercy, doing what Jesus called us to do: feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. Catholic faith grows and matures in shared community; therefore candidates will be expected to complete this service project with their small group, *not as individuals*. We know that many of you are doing community service with your schools or other organizations; however those will not count towards your Confirmation service project.

## 3. Participate in a One-Day Retreat

All Confirmation candidates will be expected to participate in our day-long retreat; a time for prayer, discussion, group activities, food, and fun. These retreats are not optional; it is an intentional piece of our program, and its goal is for us to build community together.

**Retreat for Year I Candidates:** Participate in a retreat day at an outdoor ropes course.

This retreat offers exhilarating and adventurous activities which encourage personal growth, group unity and spiritual development; and it accomplishes one of our biggest goals: to build community. And even though it's fun, it does have a theological purpose too... it helps us to see how we are "The body of Christ" for each other. This has been a big hit with the Confirmation candidates in the past! This retreat is held in the fall, so that all Year I Candidates will have the chance to get to know each other sooner.

**Retreat for Year II Candidates:** Participate in a retreat day at the Connors Retreat Center in Dover, MA. This day has also been successful in the past; this is due in great part to our Peer Ministers, who share their faith stories and coordinate the whole day. It is a chance for the Confirmation candidates to come away together, before being Confirmed, to realize that they are the "church" at Blessed Sacrament; that this is their own faith, not just their parents' faith.

## 4. Write Monthly Reflections

Each month, Confirmation candidates will be asked to write a one-page reflection, which will be collected at the next meeting. These will give candidates a chance to think more about what was discussed, and how it impacts their lives as Catholics. **It is a key learning component, and so the expectation is that these reflections will be turned in on time.**

Questions? Contact Margaret Bouffard, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 508-668-4700 ext.17;  
youthminister@blessedsacrament.org



# Confirmation Registration 2011-2012

*Year I and Year II*

*This form may be duplicated for multiple registrations.*

**Step 1 – All Year I and Year II Confirmation candidates should complete this form, and mail it in with a check made out to: Blessed Sacrament.**

**\*\*DEADLINE FOR THIS REGISTRATION FORM IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011\*\***

**\*\*YEAR I CANDIDATES: DO NOT MAIL IN THE COVENANT FORM, WHICH IS THE BLUE FORM. \*\***  
 YOU WILL BRING THIS BLUE COVENANT FORM WITH YOU TO YOUR ORIENTATION AND MASS.

**Step 2 – YEAR I CANDIDATES should attend the Orientation with a Parent/Guardian, or your Sponsor. The Orientation is on Sunday, September 25, 2011 (see the schedule for details). Please bring the signed covenant form with you to the Orientation.**

**Confirmation Program Fees:**

(Fees must accompany the completed registration)

**The registration fee is \$100 per Confirmation candidate, until September 09, 2011.**

**\*After Sept. 09, 2011, the late registration is \$125.\***

**There is also an additional \$85 fee collected at this time, for the Confirmation retreat.**

Please note: We collect all of the fees for the Confirmation program up front, including money for the retreat, and bus transportation. You will not be asked for additional money later in the year.

**Families who use the church envelopes and give more than \$500 to the parish annually, receive half off the per child registration fee. The fee for the retreat remains the same.**

*To receive the credit, a family must have verifiable contributions through using weekly parish envelopes.*

*Archdiocesan and special collections are not included.*

*List your envelope number here \_\_\_\_\_, so we can verify. Also please sign the following statement:*

*Our family gave more than \$500 using parish envelopes, to Blessed Sacrament Parish during the past year.*

*We qualify to receive half off the Religious Education fees. \_\_\_\_\_*

(Parent Signature)

No person will be turned away because of the cost of fees. If this fee is a burden for your family, contact the Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 508-668-4700, x17.

**Confirmation Fee Worksheet (If registering BEFORE September 09, 2011)**

**Confirmation Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Or if donate via envelopes: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_)

**Subtotal =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Candidate: 1 x \$85 (retreat fee) = \$85.00**

**Total Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_

*To avoid late registration fees, please drop off or mail registration form, and a check made out to "Blessed Sacrament", by September 09, to: Blessed Sacrament, 10 Diamond Street, Walpole MA 02081*

**Confirmation Fee Worksheet (If registering AFTER September 09, 2011)**

**Confirmation Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Or if donate via envelopes: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$62.50 = \_\_\_\_\_)

**Subtotal =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation Candidate: 1 x \$85 (retreat fee) = \$85.00**

**Total Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please fill out other side, as well)*

**Office Use**

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



**BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH  
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

BEHAVIOR

Participants in the Confirmation Program are expected to behave in a respectful and mature manner at all times. Below is a list of some specific expectations.

- Turning off cell phones (no texting) at all times during the monthly session, except during snack time, and at all retreats and service projects
- Being reverent , respectful and participatory at Mass
- Not bringing gum, candy or any other food or beverage into the church
- Listening attentively and refraining from talking during presentations, and when others are speaking during small group discussions
- Cleaning up after snack time by throwing away trash, and uneaten food and beverages in the receptacles provided
- Treating the volunteers with respect and courtesy at all times
- Keeping church and school property clean and in the condition in which it is found

Any candidate who is acting in any manner that does not meet these expectations will be reprimanded, and a repeat offense will result in a meeting with the candidate, his or her parent(s), the Pastor, and Coordinator of Youth Ministry. At that time the candidate may be informed that he/she must wait for a more appropriate time to be Confirmed.

ATTENDANCE

Candidates are expected to attend ALL dates: monthly sessions, retreats and service projects. Service projects and retreats MUST be completed in order for the candidate to move forward to the next step of the program, be it Year II or the sacrament of Confirmation. If a student misses a monthly session, it requires a phone call from a parent, and the candidate must contact the adult facilitator about the presentation and make up the reflection. If a second monthly session is missed, a meeting will be called with both the candidate and his/her parents to assess his/her continued participation in the program. A third absence will result in a suspension from the program until such time as the candidate is able to fully commit to the requirements of the program.

I have read the above policy and agree to adhere to it.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Candidate's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Parent's Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature / Date



# *The Church of the Blessed Sacrament*

A Catholic community, rooted in the Eucharist, where All are Welcome as we Build the City of God

## Sponsor Information

Confirmation will take place:

**April 28, 2012 at 10:30 A.M. & 1:30 P.M.**

Bishop Arthur Kennedy will be the celebrant. Keeping with the guidelines the

Bishop is requesting the following:

- Confirmation name chosen **MUST** be saint's name. If your given name is already a saint's name, you may use that.
- Sponsor cannot be a parent of Confirmation candidate
- Confirmation candidate will be requested to write a letter to Bishop Kennedy in response to the following questions: Why did you select your sponsor? What saint's name did you choose for Confirmation and why did you select that name? These letters are **MANDATORY** and must be completed by March 2, 2012

**NAME OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIRMATION NAME CHOSEN –MUST BE SAINTS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF CHURCH WHERE BAPTIZED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER'S FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FATHER'S FULL NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF SPONSOR: (May not be a parent)** \_\_\_\_\_

**RELATIONSHIP TO CANDIDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS OF SPONSOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS (Required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:**

Letters for Bishop Kennedy due: March 2, 2012. This form is due: September 9, 2011



# ***At Your Service!***

## Volunteering in the Youth Ministry Program

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*Might you be willing to give your time to help pass the Catholic faith to another generation or offer general support to the Youth Ministry Program? We are in need of volunteers. For more information, read the descriptions below, and please consider getting involved... Check off your area of interest and fill out the form at the bottom. Feel free to call 508-668-4700 x17 or [emailyouthminister@blessedsacrament.org](mailto:emailyouthminister@blessedsacrament.org) if you have any questions.*

*Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!*

- Adult Facilitator** – Assist at Confirmation classes which meet monthly, on Sundays from 4:30-7:30; including Mass. Facilitators do not prepare lesson plans, but rather listen to the guest presenter for that month's topic, along with their small group of 10 -12 teens, and then, along with a Peer Minister co-facilitate the small group discussions. Facilitators also attend the retreat and the service project with their group. Most facilitators find the experience very rewarding.
  - Chaperone** – Help with any special events that are scheduled, particularly social events.
  - Snack Hour Host** – Assist in monthly set-up and distribution of food (pizza or other item) for Confirmation class, usually from 6:00pm – 6:45pm
  - Parish House Volunteer** – Answer door and phone at Parish House (1 day /week commitment 12:00 – 3:00 P.M. or 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.)
  - Other** – What would you like to suggest? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Yes, I am interested in volunteering!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Best time or way to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note that all volunteers must complete a CORI form after signing up.**

**Mail or Drop off this page to:  
Youth Ministry, Blessed Sacrament Parish,  
10 Diamond St., Walpole, MA 02081  
Or fax to 508-668-3554.**

