

**St. Patrick's Religious Education Program**  
**26 Hunter Street**  
**Highland Mills, NY 10930**  
**928-3354 or 928-6688**

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Dear Parents,

With great joy we welcome you and your child into our eighth grade Confirmation program. Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It is also a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths, and bestows gifts that will help us live more fully committed to Christ.

The parish, staff and I look forward to your child's journey of faith. The enclosed information will help explain the many components to our Confirmation Preparation Program here at St. Patrick's. We hope you will take a few moments to review the important requirements needed by your youngster to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please be sure to note the dates that particular items are due.

Again we ask you to assist us in making this year of preparation for your child one that is fruitful. Your cooperation is very important.

If I can be of assistance to you in anyway, please do not hesitate to call the Religious Education Office at 928-3354 or 928-6688.

Sincerely,

*Louise Pisano*

*Coordinator Religious Education Program*

Father Gerard P. Travers

*Pastor*

*Confirmation Catechists,*

Mrs. Charlene Kuklis

Mr. Howard Hull

Mrs. Patricia Murray

Ms. Rachel Csak

Deacon Paul Weireter

Eoin Smyth

Andrea Coleman

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**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2008-2009**

**ROLE OF THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED:**

The candidates for Confirmation must be suitably instructed and properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and His church.

**ROLE OF THE PARENTS:**

The initiation of children into the sacramental life is ordinarily the responsibility and concern of Christian parents. They are to form and gradually increase a spirit of faith in the children and, at times with the help of catechism classes, prepare them for the fruitful reception of the sacrament of confirmation. The role of parents is also expressed by their active participation in the celebration of the sacraments.

**ROLE OF THE SPONSOR:**

It is desirable that the godparent at baptism, if available, also be the sponsor at confirmation. This expresses more clearly the link between baptism and confirmation and also makes the function and responsibility of the sponsor more effective. The sponsor brings the candidate to receive the sacrament, presents them to the minister for the anointing, and will later help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.

**The sponsor Affidavit must be completed and returned to candidate so that the candidate can submit it in his/her folder on the appropriate date.**

**LITURGY PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION:**

Each candidate is expected to attend Mass on Sunday and take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis. We will conduct a communal reconciliation service for candidates, sponsors, (if available) and families.

**PERSONAL PRAYER:**

The candidates will be led to deepen their personal prayer life by experiencing prayer in all their activities. If we want a relationship with God that is vivid in our experience, exciting in our living, and supportive of our very self, then prayer is the most direct way to that relationship. If we long for communication with God, prayer is the means, whatever form we choose.

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**RETREAT:**

Each candidate will be required to participate in our retreat day, which will be held at the Bethany Retreat House in Highland Mills. (Specific dates are on the calendar which accompanies this handbook). This special Confirmation experience of prayer and discussion will encourage the candidates to build a faith community among themselves as they prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This retreat is an essential part of our preparation and **ALL CANDIDATES MUST ATTEND.** The candidates will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at the end of the day.

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE:**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit empower the candidates and all confirmed with compassion, love, and strength to serve others. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament that asks you not only to believe in Jesus but also to live his life daily. Living the life of Jesus means living a life of service, and service means responding to other's needs whenever and wherever you see them – in your home, in your church community, in your city or town, in your nation, and even in the world. This commitment to be concerned about others is an essential part of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students can not miss more than five (3) class sessions during the Confirmation year.

**REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED:**

**SAINT:** Since the Confirmation rite does not mention a new Confirmation name the rite presumes that you will be using your baptismal name. This expresses more clearly the link between Baptism and Confirmation, if however, you choose to take a new name reflective of your new direction, attitude, and commitment of life, and then that name should be that of Saint you admire.

TYPE a report that explains your saint's name. This report should contain 100-125 words and include the following information, name of saint, why it was chosen and how you can imitate the Saint in some way.

**CONFIRMATION FEE:**

A fee of \$85.00 is requested to cover the cost of the following items: Retreat Day, Bible, Special text materials, gown, pin, certificate, flowers, speaker fees for workshops, Bishop gift etc...

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**GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A SPONSOR**

Following a tradition in the church, one person, called the sponsor represents the Christian community and acts as your child's guide. The sponsor is a person who reflects the values held deeply in the Catholic Church. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament. At the actual celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation the sponsor will stand beside your child as a witness that he/she is ready and willing to reaffirm his/her baptismal commitment.

1. It is desirable that the sponsor for Confirmation be the one who undertook this role at Baptism.
2. A Roman Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken (free from impediment).
3. At least 16, unless a priest considers that there is just reason for an exception to be made.
4. Not the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

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**To be given to your sponsor along with the sponsor affidavit**

Dear **sponsor**,

Congratulations, as a sponsor, you know that it is very important to keep in close contact with the candidate. Then, you can share your faith, knowledge, and experience of being a Catholic.

Please try to arrange opportunities to spend time with the candidates and to enjoy being together. Some of these times can relate directly to the Confirmation program. Perhaps you can help the candidate choose service projects. You might even be able to arrange a project or accompany the candidate to carry out one (such as working at a food kitchen or visiting a hospital). Keep in close contact with the candidate, either in person or on the telephone. In an informal way, talk about what the candidate is learning in class. See if there are any questions or reactions. If you are a member of the same parish, let the candidate see your participation in the Eucharist.

As a Confirmation sponsor your role is one of support, care and spiritual friend. You are asked to develop a faith relationship with the candidate, accompany the candidate, if possible to liturgy stand with the candidate before the bishop and the community and help the candidate live as a follower of Jesus.

The parish family of St. Patrick welcomes you into the parish Confirmation program. We pray that your role as a sponsor will be an enriching one.

Sincerely,

*Louise Pisano*

*Father Gerard Travers*  
Pastor

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*This paper is due Sunday October 5, Tuesday October 7 or Wednesday October 8, and must be in the envelope given to you at the meeting in June*

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS FIRST CLASS IN OCTOBER**

This affidavit is for your **sponsor.**

**CONFIRMATION SPONSOR AFFIDAVIT**

Confirmation students Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Full legal name – No nicknames) –Please print

**Sponsors for Confirmation are asked to contact their local Parish Priest and have the form below signed and authorized with the official seal of the church.**

**This is to certify**

That \_\_\_\_\_

Is a member of this Parish, is a practicing Catholic and is qualified to act as a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish Seal

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*This paper is due either Sunday October 5, Tuesday October 7 or Wednesday October 8, and must be in the envelope given to you at the meeting in June*

**Candidate's Name:**

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**Full First and Last Name – Please Print**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR CHOOSING A NAME**

- ◆ No nicknames or abbreviations
- ◆ Must be a saint's name and match your saint report
- ◆ Please spell the name correctly. *This is how it will appear on your certificate.*
- ◆ No changes will be made

**My Confirmation name will be:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(One name only)

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**PARENT'S SIGNATURE**

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**CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROJECTS**

Christian love is manifested in service to other people. A vital part of the preparation for living a full Christian life is developing an attitude and habit of serving others.

It is not enough that you know about your faith. The questions are: How do you put your faith into practice? How often do you go out of your way to help others? Are you creative in finding ways to serve others as Christ asks? There are unlimited possibilities for projects of service. You are encouraged to undertake meaningful, free of charge and on-going service in conjunction with your preparation for Confirmation.

**Please be sure to sign up for one of the projects listed below.**

**Service Projects**

Please select three of the following projects in order of preference. You will be assigned *ONE* project but our hope is that you will willingly participate in opportunities of service that may arise during the course of the year. Because of the number of children in our Confirmation program it may not be possible to honor your first choice. Positions will be filled on a first come first served basis.

In addition to the projects listed below you are asked to complete **5 additional hours** of service. These hours can be in the **parish, community or family**. I encourage you to ask your sponsor to assist you in this part of your service. It is wonderful way for the two of you to share your faith. Please use page # 13 to record your hours.



**1. Project:** Vacation Bible School  
**Date:** June 30<sup>th</sup> -July 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 8:15AM – 12:45 PM  
**Place:** School building  
**Contact:** Patricia Murray 928-7827  
10 students needed



**2. Project:** Pals with Paws - A Seeing Eye puppy club in Warwick, NY  
**Date:** Looking for families with children and adults to nurture a puppy, who will then be taken and trained to offer independence and dignity to a blind person.  
**Time:**  
**Place:** . Your home  
**Contact:** Kathleen Wong 928-5189



**3. Project:** Clean up of Religious Education classrooms.  
**Date:** July 9, 2008  
**Time:** 10AM – 12 PM (please bring a bucket and cleaning cloths)  
 Sister Anne will assign you specific jobs. Please report directly to her.  
**Place:** School building.  
**Contact:** Sister Anne Ryan 928-6688  
10 students need



**4. Project:** CYO Youth Group Bible school program “RAINBOW DAYS”  
**Date:** August 4-8  
**Time:** 9:45 AM-1: 15 PM  
**Place:** School building  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano – 928-3354  
10 students needed



**5. Project:** Set up of Religious Education classrooms.  
**Date:** August 27, 2008  
**Time:** 1 PM – 3 PM  
 Prepare books for opening of program.  
**Place:** School building.  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354  
10 students needed





6. **Project:** Classroom Aides- Grades 1 and 2 ONLY. (Please pick a day and Time -This project is for the entire year. Ends in May  
**Date:** First week of classes in September  
**Time:** Sunday 9:00 AM or Sunday 10:30 AM  
Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday, 4:00 PM  
**Place:** School Building  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354  
8 students needed



7. **Project:** **Publicity chairperson for St. Patrick's Family picnic** September 7, 2008  
Design and distribute flyers after all Masses  
**Date:** Weekend of August 23-24 and August 30-31  
**Time:** 5:30 PM Saturday – 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM -12:00 PM Sunday  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354  
3 Students need



8. **Project:** Monroe Crop Walk - Walk for Hunger  
**Date:** exact date pending (September or October 2008)  
**Time:** pick up walkers' packet in my office  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354



9. **Project:** TGIF Halloween Party (setup/ run games/clean up)  
**Date:** October 24, 2008  
**Time:** Halloween party 4-7 PM  
**Place:** School building  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano – 928-3354



10. **Project:** Advent Family, fun, faith, food Event.( assist with set-up and event)



- Date:** SET-UP-Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> set up 6-9 PM  
EVENTS -Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 – 2 PM  
**Time:** Monday November 10, 5:30-7:00 PM  
Wednesday November 12, 5:30 – 7:00 PM



- Place:** School building

**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354

**11. Project:** **“Parents Day Out”** (Youth group and Confirmation students provide a day of babysitting for the parish families)

**Date:** December 13, 2008  
**Time:** 11AM-4:00 PM  
**Place:** School gym  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354

**15 students needed**



**12. Project:** **First Grade Christmas Pageant**

**Date:** rehearsal December 20, 2008  
**Play December 21, 2008**  
**MUST DO BOTH DATES**  
**Time :** 11AM-3PM approximate time for rehearsal  
1-4 PM (play)  
**Place :** School building  
**Contact :** Louise Pisano 928-3354

**10 students needed**



**SNOW DATE**

December 23, 2008



**13. Project:** **First Penance Reception.** (Bake, set up, serve, clean up)

**Date:** January 17, 2009  
**Time :** 10:30 – 1:30 PM  
**Place:** Lower church hall  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354

**10 Students needed**



**SNOW DATE**

January 31, 2009



**14. Project:** **First Penance Reception.** (Bake, set up, serve, clean up)

**Date:** January 24, 2009  
**Time :** 10:30 – 1:30 PM  
**Place:** Lower church hall  
**Contact:** Louise Pisano 928-3354

**10 Students needed**



**SNOW DATE**

January 31, 2009

**15. Project:**                    **LENT Family, fun, faith, food Event.**( assist with set-up and event)



**Date:**                    **SET-UP-Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> - set up 6-9 PM**  
**EVENTS -Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> - 12:30 – 2 PM**  
**Time:**                    **Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> - 5:30-7:00 PM**  
                                 **Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 – 7:00 PM**  
                                 **Wednesday ,March 18<sup>th</sup> 5:30 – 7:00 PM**  
**Place**                    **School building**  
**Contact:**                **Louise Pisano 928-3354**



**16 . Project:**                    **Living presentation of Stations of the Cross (cast member)**



**Date: Time**                    **Palm Sunday April 5, 2009 - 11:45 for Mass in costume.**  
                                 **Good Friday April 10, 2009- 11:30 AM**  
                                 **Rehearsal schedule: (Mondays) March 23, 30April 6 6–6:40 PM.**  
                                 ***(FINAL rehearsal Wednesday April 8 - 5-7:00 PM includes pizza)***  
**Place :**                    **school gym**  
**Contact :**                **Louise Pisano 928-3354**



*Please use this sheet to record your additional 5 hours of service.*

*Confirmation students name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *Hours of service* \_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *Hours of service* \_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *Hours of service* \_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *Hours of service* \_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *Hours of service* \_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Project* \_\_\_\_\_ *Hours of service* \_\_\_\_\_ *date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of student* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature of parent* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date* \_\_\_\_\_

***All ADDITIONAL SERVICE MUST BE COMPLETED BY JANUARY 20, 21 OR 25.***

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECT CHOICES

CHOOSE 3 projects from the list (in order of preference) that you would like to participate in. You will be then assigned ONE project to fulfill. **You will only be notified if you do not get your first choice**

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Choices:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by July 11,2008 to Mrs. Pisano. All forms returned after the July 11<sup>th</sup> deadline will be assigned a project at random.

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2008-2009**  
**IMPORTANT DATES**  
**PLEASE POST THIS SHEET WHERE IT WILL BE SEEN AS A REMINDER**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
June 2	Confirmation Parent/Student Handbook Meeting ) (choose 1 ONLY	7:00 PM	Weireter Hall (gym)
June 3		7:00 PM	Weireter Hall (gym)
June 8		1:00 PM	Weireter Hall (gym)

October 26	Enrollment Mass*	10:15 AM 11:45 PM	Church Church
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*\*All confirmation students must attend this mass*

**January/March - All Confirmation students will be given an assessment test to evaluate the candidates readiness to receive the sacrament.**

January 20, 21, 25 { Measure for robes class time school building  
Pg 13 of handbook due- additional service project hours competed.

March 26, March 30	Confirmation <b>Retreat</b> <u>Includes Reconciliation</u>	10:15-3:00 PM	Bethany Retreat House – Route 105 Highland Mills NY
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March 2 March 9	Sexuality workshop* Sexuality workshop*	7:00-8:30 PM 7:00-8:30 PM	Weireter Hall (gym) Weireter Hall (gym)
<i>*One parent and confirmation student must attend</i>			<i>(snow date March 24<sup>th</sup>)</i>

April 6, 2009 April 7, 2009	Parent Meeting Parent Meeting	7:00 PM 11:00 AM	Weireter Hall (gym) Weireter Hall (gym)
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April 23	Confirmation Rehearsal Confirmation Rehearsal	7:00 PM 8:15 PM	{ Weireter Hall (gym) Weireter Hall (gym)
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April 25 April 27	Confirmation Day Confirmation Day	2:00 PM 5:30 PM	Church Church
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May 31	Special Pentecost Mass	12:00 PM	Church
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*Bishop Lagonegro will meet with Confirmation students and sponsors 1/2 hour before the sacrament. Please be in the gym on time.*

*Please Note: Your Specific date of events will be determined by your class and teacher, and will be announced in September.*

☆ *Papers due: 1. Saint report/ 2. Name form/ 3. Sponsor affidavit/ 4. Fee.*  
*All items should be placed in envelope that accompanies this handbook and be turned into your teacher by Sunday October 5, or Tuesday October 7, or Wednesday October 8. **YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO CLASS ON THOSE DATES WITHOUT YOUR ENVELOPE AND THE PROPER COMPLETED PAPERS. SPONSOR FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE PARISH YOUR SPONSOR ATTENDS EVEN IF THE PARISH IS ST. PATRICK'S.***