

**St. Rose of Lima**  
428 S. Main St.  
North Wales, PA 19454-3224  
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To: All Fall 2011 Confirmation Families

From: Phyllis Tyrrell, Principal & Joanne Trageser, D.R.E.

Re: Confirmation Preparation

The sacrament of Confirmation will be administered in our parish in the Fall. We may not know the exact date until August, but as a Fall parish, we can expect a date between mid-October to mid-December.

This meeting and packet of information is a vital step in keeping communication lines open and insuring that everyone is well informed about the necessary logistics to allow the reception of the sacrament by our young people to focus on their spiritual faith journey. This prior planning and organization is essential and can only produce our desired result with your cooperation and understanding of the necessity of deadlines for information. We hope you (whether you are a parent, grandparent, other family member or sponsor) will take advantage of opportunities to partner with us and actively participate in the formational, spiritual, liturgical events and service projects.

You will find other information and a checklist attached to this packet. Some have dates when information is due to us. Please follow the dates listed, but understand that "as soon as possible" allows us to make this process work for all involved. Please read all of the information carefully and **keep this packet in a safe place so you may refer to it throughout the process. This is the parent packet and should not be in the possession of the student.** We will also have the packet posted on the Parish Web site so you can access easily and save the parish reproduction cost. Also, the candidates should make every effort to keep their study guides in good condition.

For further clarifications, comments and questions please contact as outlined below:

St. Rose of Lima School Families-turn in all information forms, fees and direct all questions and comments through Mrs.Marianne Schmidt

Parish School of Religion (CCD) & Catholic Academy families' point of contact is the Director of Religious Education, Joanne Trageser.

### Information and Check List

#### 1) Presentation of Candidates & Distribution of Prayer Partner Doves

##### ◇ Pentecost Sunday, June 12th, 9:30 a.m. Mass

- Candidates report to vestibule **NO LATER THAN 9:15 AM** to pick up their Prayer Partner Dove. (Parent Volunteers Needed).
- Candidates will come forward when their name is called, receive a pin and remain standing in the front. When all names are called, then they go out and hand their prayer partner dove to a parishioner.

#### 2) Program:

With the exception of candidates who attend private Catholic academies, our parish will provide a program of catechesis. All candidates' preparation will include prayer, study, and service. The parish will attest to the Bishop that the student is prepared, if the program has been completed.

##### A) Prayer:

- Candidates should pray daily and must attend weekly Mass.
- The parish supports class retreat days. Catholic Academy, older students (grades 6-12) and adults preparing for the sacrament are invited to participate in the class retreat that best suits their family's schedule.

##### B) Service:

- It is recommended that each candidate complete a minimum of 12 hours of service with the hope that this will lead the candidate to an understanding that Christian service is an important part of a mature faith. We will suggest some ideas for this service, and strongly recommend that parents work with the candidate to complete this service. A form is attached for the candidate to account for and to describe the service, and for the parent to attest to its completion.

##### C) Study:

- Bible, Texts, Questions and Saint Research  
Catechesis includes Bible Study, text books, and memorization of specific prayers and questions which are in the study packet. This should be done to the best of the candidate's ability. Also included is a research report on the life of the saint the candidate chooses for his/her name.

#### 3) Sponsors:

- One sponsor for each candidate, selected preferably by the candidate WITH the parents. It is customary that the sponsor be one of the two who were godparents at Baptism, but any practicing Roman Catholic may be chosen (able to get a certificate of eligibility from their parish.)

- The role of the sponsor is:
  - First, to be a person who will enter into the faith journey of the candidate.
  - Second, to represent all the relatives and friends, and the Church itself, the faith community, who are interested and involved in the spiritual welfare of this candidate.
  
- The person chosen must be a practicing Catholic.
- That Catholic must be 16 years old, at least.
- That Catholic must already have been confirmed and have made First Communion.
- And must now be leading a life of Catholic faith in harmony with this duty.
- The sponsor may not be either the mother or the father; may not be a non-Catholic; and may not be a Catholic who is married outside the Church.
- A parent may **not** stand in proxy for the sponsor. Sponsor need not be the same sex as the candidate.
- **Proposed sponsors must have a recent certificate of eligibility from their parish.** This would also be the case if a substitute has to be chosen for the original sponsor, even on the day of the Confirmation.
  1. This certificate of eligibility must be obtained from the pastor of the parish in which the sponsor lives.
  2. If the proposed sponsor lives in St. Rose, please give the name, address, and phone number, and we will certify directly. Sponsors from St. Rose do not have to apply to us for a written certificate.
  
- **All certificates of eligibility must be received by us as soon as possible but no later than Monday, April 11, 2011.**

## 4) Apparel:

- Robes measurement in September depending on date. Volunteers may be needed.
- White dress shirt boys; girls in skirts/ dresses; no sneakers; bangs back.
- Wreaths for girls; Volunteers needed.
- Red ties for boys. Volunteers needed.
- More details as September approaches wreaths and ties are distributed through CCD class on Sunday for Rel Ed and Academies; in class for St. Rose School.

## 5) Tickets:

- Our Church holds 597 people.
- Tickets will be used-depending on final number confirmed,4-6 tickets per candidate.

## 6) Video/Photographs:

- We have the Confirmation professionally recorded. Each candidate will receive a DVD as part of the package.
- Photos depend on guidelines from the Bishop.

- 7) **Dates for Practices to be announced when we receive Confirmation date.**
- Over the past few years, we instituted separate practices for St. Rose School (during religion class) and CCD/ Academies (evenings). We have had a lot of positive feedback and results and will continue this schedule.
  - Shortly before Confirmation, we have our last evening practice with sponsors. This practice is mandatory for ALL Candidates-school and parish. Many times sponsors are unable to attend. In that case, a parent may sit in for them. **But must share information with the sponsor.** We will brief the sponsors who are unable to attend , one hour before the Confirmation.
- 8) Gift for the Bishop:
- A) Masses/Holy Communions:
- Each year on Confirmation Day, we offer the Bishop a Spiritual gift. First, we offer our prayers. To do this we will make the promise to offer for the Bishop's intention our next 3 Masses and Holy Communions. Our participation in weekly Masses should include prayers for our bishop as well.
- B) Food:
- We send food in the Bishop's name to the needy.
  - Candidates contribute one can per week. Candidates should prepare a grocery bag or other type of container to be kept at their home.
  - We work with several churches and local Emergency Food Cupboards. Volunteer Parents are welcomed to help coordinate this endeavor.
- 9) Letter to the Bishop:

At home, students will write letters to the Bishop, (once we know who will be celebrating Confirmation), thanking him for coming, letting him know how they are looking forward to Confirmation and/or what they have been doing to prepare. They can tell him about their Confirmation saint. They should practice and prepare for this letter at home and **have parents check it for grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.**

Catholic Academy students can get letterhead paper at robe measurement time. Then please write your letter at home and bring your letter to the Rectory. All letters will be mailed together from here. (Do not fold or put in an envelope or mail your own.) **Look in the Church bulletin** for the Bishop's name and bring your completed letter to the rectory.

The salutation for the letter would be:

Your Excellency:  
or Dear Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

## 10) Research Confirmation Saint:

All students must research and write about the life of the saint they are choosing for Confirmation. Also, they should identify the fruit, gift, or characteristic of the Holy Spirit that this saint emulated. Except for Catholic Academy students, these will be discussed in class. St. Rose CCD students will be assigned a due date by their catechists. St. Rose School students will be assigned a due date by Mrs. Schmidt during the 2nd half of this school year. Catholic Academy students and others, not St. Rose School or CCD, please bring your research paper to the Rectory before **June 3, 2011**. All will be displayed.

11) Watch the Parish Bulletin for information updates under "Confirmation 2011." This is especially true during the summer when distribution through schools and CCD is impossible. Phone chains and newsletters should help us communicate. If you do not attend Mass at St. Rose on a particular Sunday, parish bulletins are available at the rectory during the week. After **April 11th**, you may be contacted about missing information from our databases (school & Rel Ed.). Our hope is to be able to have the preliminary draft of the Confirmation Booklet and Letter of Notification to Place of Baptism completed before the summer months are upon us. (We may also need robe measurement depending on our date.) Then, if our Confirmation date is early October, we will be well prepared!

## 12) Confirmation Candidates:

- |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| St. Rose School Students:  | Are being prepared during their regular school religion classes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Catholic Academy Students: | Are being prepared at their schools, but they are responsible for knowing the material in our parish study packet.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| St. Rose C.C.D. Students:  | Are being prepared during their Sunday C.C.D. classes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| St. Rose Parishioners:     | (Jr. or Sr. High or others not included in above groups). Special arrangements are being made to insure your preparation.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Non-St.Rose Parishioners:  | Candidates from other parishes who attend St. Rose of Lima School or St. Rose of Lima CCD will receive their formation here, but will be confirmed at their parish. Individuals to whom this applies should contact Rel Ed or school immediately. We will work in concert with your parish DRE, principal and pastor. |

13) Fee for materials & supplies (robes, buses, dvd, flowers, wreaths/ties, certificates, pins, programs, notifications to place of baptism, textbooks, pilgrimage brochures etc.)

- **\$100.00** - Due on or before April 11, 2011 with completed information form. (Attached)
- **Very Important:** This is a suggested materials fee. No parishioner will be denied any part of the confirmation process or distribution for reasons of inability to contribute the fee. Please see the Parish Business Manager or our pastor, Msgr. Murray, if you wish to confidentially discuss this matter.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR SERVICE

- 1) Our Parish's St. John's Hospice Casserole Program needs casseroles.

A casserole counts for 2 hours of service. 1 hour to shop, 1 hour to prepare and cook. Freeze the finished casserole. Hospice Pickup day is the 2nd Thursday of each month. For recipes and details, consult the front of the bulletin for the current contact person.

- 2) Call a nursing home and arrange a visit to read or talk with the elderly.
- 3) Get a group of candidates together, bake cookies and go Christmas caroling or other holiday appropriate activity to parish shut-ins and deliver your baked cookies. Call the rectory for names and addresses of parish shut-ins.
- 4) Collect food for the needy. Call and arrange to take it to the Patrician Society at St. Patrick's Church, Norristown. (This would be in addition to our 1 can each week)
- 5) Collect sample or trial size toiletries, wrap each as a little gift and put all in gift-wrapped shoe box (each part of shoe box needs to be wrapped separately -top and bottom), so it can be used as a decorated container. Mark if it is for a man or woman. Donate to a shelter.
- 6) Prepare a meal for Aid-For-Friends. Have your parent call Jane Selner at 215-699-7479 for details.

7-)

An acceptable activity is a service when it is:

- 1) It is done freely and rendered without pay or other compensation
- 2) if there is a payment that money is given to the needy or used to buy articles for the needy.
- 3) Read the Corporal and Spritual Works of Mercy for guidance. The service has to be something that includes a sacrifice on your part and not just something that you should be doing as a matter of family courtesy. (i.e. making your bed ; walking the dog. Unless you are giving up your allowance for the poor.)



## My Confirmation Check List

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I have memorized the following:  
(Place a check mark next to each one you know.)

- 1. The Sign of the Cross
- 2. The Our Father
- 3. The Hail Mary
- 4. The Doxology
- 5. The Apostles' Creed
- 6. Act of Contrition
- 7. The Ten Commandments
- 8. Duties of A Catholic Christian
- 9. Spiritual Works of Mercy
- 10. Corporal Works of Mercy
- 11. Theological Virtues
- 12. The Holy Days of Obligation
- 13. Days of Fast & Abstinence
- 14. The Beatitudes
- 15. The Seven Sacraments
- 16. Grace Before and
- 17. After Meals
- 18. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 19. Liturgical Seasons
- 20. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- 21. Confirmation Questions

I have heard and acknowledge that my child knows all the items checked above.  
We/I understand that the candidates are responsible--to the best of their ability--for all of the above.

Signature of Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return in September per classroom instruction. Catholic Academies return to DRE at first practice.**

Return this form with fee AS SOON AS POSSIBLE but no later than April 11, 2011 with:

- ◇ Baptismal Certificate, if not baptized here or not previously submitted
- ◇ Letter of Eligibility for Sponsor

All blocks on this form must be filled in completely! Do not assume that we have access to your information. Blocks left blank will only delay processing.

Candidate attends (Circle one) SRS CCD GMA/Norwood/Ancillae Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Full Name First/Middle/Last

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Address Street/ City/ State/ Zip+4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Numbers Evening Cell

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date Baptized \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_  
(Full Church name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Address of Church Street/ City/ State/ Zip+4

Candidate's Confirmation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Full and Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

The Sponsor Full name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor's Address Street/ City/ State/ Zip+4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full name and address of Sponsor's Parish Church

Signature of Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_