

DUE SEPTEMBER 7

My Pledge

I _____, agree to:

- 1) Cooperate to the best of my ability with the parish program preparing me for the sacrament of Confirmation;
- 2) participate in the classes and activities, and try to the best of my ability to place my talents at the service of others;
- 3) attend Mass every Sunday, and pray for growth in faith, hope, and love.

I ask the help of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in this agreement.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witnessed by parents: _____

(To be completed at the conclusion of this meeting)

DUE SEPTEMBER 7

A Pledge of Commitment to participate in the Confirmation Program established at Epiphany Church

Recognizing that my involvement as a parent is of special importance in helping to prepare my child to receive Confirmation, I hereby agree

- To see that my child attends Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to accompany my child to Mass.
- To see that my child attends all catechetical sessions and the Confirmation retreat.
- To pray with and for my child.
- To attend, together with my child, the Commitment Mass.
- To help my child choose a suitable sponsor.
- To participate in a family outreach project.
- To participate in developing a family mission statement that will guide our family's central values and hopes.
- I understand that participation in this program is a prerequisite for my child's reception of Confirmation.

Parents' Signature: _____

Candidate's Name: _____

Date: _____

(To be completed at the conclusion of this meeting)

DUE OCTOBER 19

PASTORAL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR
CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE

Name _____

What does Confirmation mean to you? (Write 1 or 2 paragraphs)

Why do you feel you are ready to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation? (Write 2 or 3 paragraphs)

You are to feel free to choose to celebrate Confirmation at another time if you feel that you are not ready and would like to wait. If, for whatever reason, you wish to delay your celebration, tell the Confirmation coordinator. She will try to help you with your decision.

Due October 19

Living Out the Covenant

A *covenant* is a binding of oneself in love and fidelity to another; God has bound us to himself and invites us to live out that covenant of love in our family and other communities.

One way to remember the meaning of covenant is to write a mission statement to guide the central values and hopes as you navigate through life and relationships.

Here are a few steps for creating a family or personal mission statement.

1. Read the following scripture passages and reflect on what challenges and insights surface for you about “covenantal” relationships.
 - Genesis 28:15 •Isaiah 61:8 •Sirach 28:7 •Hebrews 8:10
2. Make a list of the ways you want to witness to the world God's loving relationship with you. How do you want to show love to each other? What actions are the most important values by which you want to live? How would you like people to describe you—kind, generous, loving, hospitable? What actions are important to living out your values—honest conflict resolution, grace before meals, recycling?
3. Pull together the central thoughts from the list and write them into a simple statement. Once the statement has been written and accepted, sign your name(s) to it and decorate it. When completed send it to your child's classroom. They will be returned to you at the time of Confirmation so that you can post it prominently as a reminder of how you are trying to live out your covenantal relationship with God.

Here are two sample mission statements:

- Our Family Mission: To love each other... To help each other... To believe in each other... To wisely use our time, talents; and resources to bless others... To worship together... To be a community of hospitality and service.
- Faithfully committing to my values... Showing affection in words and deeds... Making an effort to work with others... Having fun and celebrating the gifts of the people in my life... Loving with patience and perseverance through all that happens.

Due October 19

Choosing A Confirmation Name

As a candidate for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name.

1. You may choose your present baptismal name (your regular first name). This shows the sacramental connection with the first and second part of your initiation into the Catholic Church-Baptism and First Eucharist. To stay with your baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.
2. You may also choose the name of a person who inspires you or a saint's name. This would symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that person or saint. This would be especially appropriate if you are now making a renewed commitment to your faith. Your commitment would be symbolized with the taking of a new name to show that you are in some ways a new person.

The name chosen would represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or would represent a strength or attribute you feel you need. It is important and necessary to know something about the person or saint before you decide on that name. This option of taking a new name is not to be used because you like the sound of the name, how it fits with your other names, or because it is the name of a nice friend or relative.

Whether you are choosing to keep your present name or take a new name, **write two paragraph's** about your choice.

If you choose to keep your baptismal name, the first paragraph is to be about why you are choosing to keep your baptismal name. The second paragraph is to be about the person or saint for whom you are named and why. The “why” refers to how that person or saint has lived as a Christian and how the person or saint is a model you would like to imitate.

If you choose to take a new name, the first paragraph is to be about the particular person or saint whose name you are choosing. This refers to how that person or saint has lived the Christian life. The second paragraph is to be about why you are choosing this name. What significance or meaning does this saint hold for you? What do you hope to gain by modeling yourself after this person or saint?

Make sure to ask your facilitator where you can get information about saints.

◆ The Name you choose must be a saint's name. ◆

Due October 19

CONFIRMATION APPLICATION

NAME OF PERSON TO BE CONFIRMED

(First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS

(Street Address) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

DATE OF BIRTH _____

SCHOOL _____ HOME PARISH _____

FATHER'S NAME

(First) (Last)

MOTHER'S NAME

(First) (Maiden)

TELEPHONE

(Home) (Father's work) (Mother's work)

SAINT'S NAME TO BE TAKEN IN CONFIRMATION _____

DATE OF BAPTISM _____

CHURCH OF BAPTISM _____

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

NOTE: All **CCD students and students from any school other than Epiphany** must submit a photocopy of their Baptismal Certificate to the Religious Education Office.

NAME OF YOUR SPONSOR _____

HOME PARISH OF YOUR SPONSOR _____

(City) (State)

NOTE: Sponsors must obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from their present parish.

Sponsor Role, Responsibilities, and Selection

The sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in transmitting the faith. The sponsor needs to be able to fulfill several requirements.

- The Church requires that the sponsor be an active, practicing Catholic who has already celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. The Church recognizes that a person cannot transmit what the person does not have.
- It is important that the sponsor be more mature, more informed, and more experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than the candidate.
- The sponsor should be a person who already has a relationship of trust with the candidate.
- It is recommended that the sponsor be an older person who has some experience with his or her faith and, hence, a clearer perspective from which to speak.
- The sponsor needs to be willing to meet with the candidate on a regular basis prior to the celebration of Confirmation and to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration of Confirmation.
- The sponsor must be willing to attend the Rite of Welcome and Commitment, and the final rehearsal.
- The sponsor is one who is willing to share his or her faith with the candidate.
- The sponsor is an assistant to the parents as the prime transmitters of the faith.
- The sponsor is to walk and talk with the candidate on the faith journey.
- The sponsor is to be an older friend or relative in whom the candidate can confide.
- The sponsor needs to be an open, honest, caring, committed, and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his or her understanding of the faith as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his *or* her life.

Due November 9

FAMILY OUTREACH PROJECT

(To be written by candidate)

NAME _____

Describe in two or three paragraphs the type of outreach you performed. Then, answer the following questions.

What was your feeling while you were involved in this project?

What kind of follow-up, if any, can you do on this project?

What did you learn from this experience?

NOTES REGARDING CONFIRMATION

- Special robes appropriate for the Sacrament will be worn by boys and girls alike. This will eliminate the expense of purchasing new suits or dresses for the occasion. Under the red robe, the attire for boys is a dressy long-sleeved shirt, tie, slacks (no jeans) and dress shoes; for girls, a dress of any color, but not floor-length gowns, and dress shoes.
- A fee of \$50.00 is required with your application, to cover the cost of gown rental and retreat. Please make checks payable to Church of the Epiphany.
- All CCD students and students from any school other than Epiphany must submit a photocopy of their Baptismal Certificate to the Religious Education Office by **October 19.**
- The Sponsor's Certificate of Eligibility (from their present parish) must be submitted to the Religious Education Office by **October 19.**
- Reception: There will be a Parish Reception in the courtyard following the ceremony.
- Photographs: **NO PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEOS** may be taken during the ceremony. Please inform anyone you are inviting to your Confirmation of this rule. After the ceremony, the candidates will process to a designated area where a professional photographer will take group pictures. These will later be available for purchase.

Office of Religious Education
and Pastoral Services

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

8081 S.W. 54th Court • Miami, Florida 33143

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Sacramental Sponsorship Certificate

In accepting this responsibility, I truthfully state the following:

- ✦ If married, I was married according to the laws of the Catholic Church regarding marriage.
- ✦ I am at least 16 years of age.
- ✦ I have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- ✦ I am a registered member of the Christian Catholic Community of _____
_____ Parish.
- ✦ I attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and receive the Sacraments of the Church regularly.
- ✦ In my candidate's efforts to live a Catholic life that reflects the spirit and teaching of the Catholic Church, I am prepared to assist his/her parents in their Christian duty by my support, encouragement and prayer.

Candidate's Name

Sponsor's Name

Sponsor's Signature

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge, this person is eligible to assume the duties and responsibilities of the role of sponsor.

Date

Pastor

Seal

The Role of a Sponsor

According to the Code of Canon Law

- Canon 892** 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.
- Canon 893** A person who would undertake the office of sponsor must fulfill the conditions mentioned in can. 874.
- Canon 874** To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must:
1. be appointed by the candidate for baptism, (or confirmation) or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
 2. be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
 3. be a 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;
 4. not labour under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared; (i.e.: if married, must be married in the Church);
 5. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be baptized (or confirmed).