

# Resurrection Youth Ministry

## Confirmation 2: 2019-2020

### Introduction

#### **Confirmation in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:**

*Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." -Catechism of the Catholic Church 1285*

#### **"Who's Who?" in Confirmation - Explaining the Roles:**

It takes the whole Church to raise a disciple. Each time a young person is confirmed, he or she takes his or her place in the wider community of faith - among those who have played a vital role in helping him or her to reach this sacramental milestone. This sacramental "support team" includes...

**The Candidate:** it's all about you (and your relationship with Christ and his Church). Much will be expected of you, but don't worry, all of us are here to assist, support, and walk with you on your journey. Come with an open mind, an open heart, and enter fully into the preparation process which will help to form you for the rest of your life. Even if you don't think you want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, we invite you to explore the journey. If in the end you decide this is not the path you want to take then at least you will know what confirmation is about before you choose a different path. All our expectations aside, you should expect great things from this process! We aren't inviting you on this journey because of all the stuff we want to give you or show you, we are inviting you because you have so much to give the Church! YOU have been chosen.

**The Candidate's Family:** Parents are not only the "primary educators" of their children, they are the "first heralds of the Gospel." In a recent study conducted by the National Study on Youth and Religion (a survey of thousands of teens), the majority of teenagers named their parents as their number one spiritual influence. Parents provide a child's first glimpse at the unconditional love that is at the heart of the Gospel. They are also the first to show their children, by example, what it means to be a disciple of the Lord. For better or worse, a teen's faith tends to mimic that of mom and dad. We encourage parents to think about the example they are setting for their children. When a member of the family begins the confirmation journey, it can be a great time to start going back to Mass weekly, going to Confession monthly, praying more often together, etc... Continue to reflect on the spiritual life and faith journey of your family. Remember it's never too late, and now is the perfect time to strengthen yours and your family's commitment to the faith. As a resource for your family, we are happy to provide a "Parent Guide" from the Chosen confirmation program.

**The Sponsor:** The confirmation sponsor's job is to be an up-close-and-personal witness of the Christian life for the candidate. The sponsor's task does not end when the teen is confirmed; rather, the sponsor is obligated to help the teen "grow in faith," to help in his or her Christian walk throughout life, and to seek out the candidate if he or she ever goes astray. Sponsors, and parents too, should pray for their candidate daily. Sponsors will be given a "Sponsor Guide" which will assist in the candidate-sponsor discussions which will take place throughout the year and hopefully well beyond the confirmation liturgy.

#### **Attendance Expectations:**

Candidates are expected to attend all events listed on the 2019-2020 Confirmation Schedule . We have worked quite diligently in order to schedule around school, sports, other extracurricular activities, and holidays. Please plan to work on homework accordingly. Games, homework, etc... are not acceptable excuses for missing any part of the Confirmation preparation period. Any absence should be communicated to Sheila upon which there will be opportunities to "make-up" that which was missed. If a student misses more than 4 sessions in a year, Sheila will connect with you.

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### Sponsor Information

#### Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor (will choose at the end of Confirmation 1).

A Confirmation sponsor's job is to be an up-close-and-personal witness of the Christian Life for the candidate. The sponsor's task does not end when the teen is confirmed; rather, the sponsor is obligated to help the teen "grow in faith," to help his or her Christian walk throughout life and seek out the candidate if he or she goes astray.

The Sponsor Guide includes ideas and talking points to help each sponsor communicate the Faith effectively to his or her candidate, who, through the sacrament, becomes in a very real sense that sponsor's "spiritual child." Sponsors are encouraged to commit to praying daily for their candidate and to reminding their teen that they are praying for them. This support will mean a great deal to the youth, especially as they grow into young adulthood.

As you begin to think about who you would like to ask to be your sponsor, keep the above in mind along with the following:

#### What Qualifications does someone need? (Reference Code of Canon Law 874)

- **Must be a practicing Catholic who is at least sixteen years old.**
- **Must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.**
- **Must be a person who leads "a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on." (a.k.a. they must live out what they believe)**
- **Must NOT be the parent of the candidate.**

Once you have discerned who you would like to invite into your journey, either call them, write them a letter, or ask them in person. **You will choose your sponsor at the end of the Confirmation 1 year.**

#### Beginning in the summer of 2020:

You and your sponsor will meet or face-time at least 4 times during your journey (3 while you are preparing to receive the sacrament and once afterwards).

Pick a place to meet where you feel comfortable: a coffee house, restaurant, go for a walk, play disc golf, etc... and give yourselves a good 90 minutes to really have some meaningful conversations. Meet more than 4 times if you want! Try for once a month, or even every week if you can.

Open yourselves up to how Christ wants to enter into your lives. Begin and end with a simple prayer. We like this one:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

Share openly with your sponsor. Always remember none of us have all the answers; we need one another more than we think. Christ can only act in our lives if we invite him and allow ourselves to become vulnerable with one another.

You will receive a Sponsor Guide at the end of your Confirmation 1 year. This guide needs to be given to your sponsor and will be utilized during your meeting times.

**Resurrection Youth Ministry**  
**Confirmation 2: 2019-2020**  
**Saint Shield Project: Instructions and Resources**

**Saint Shield Project**

1. Each Candidate will choose a Confirmation name which is typically a saint who they desire to be like. Then, they will research aspects of their life.
2. You will create a coat of arms on poster board that the church provides. If you lose your poster board, please contact Sheila to pick up another one.
3. Follow the instructions on back of this sheet to guide the research. Please do not plagiarize someone else's writing. Write the information in your own words. (see Coat of Arms diagram).
4. Each candidate will be summarizing their saint to their small group after Stations of the Cross on March 25th. The posters will be displayed at the Confirmation Ceremony and you can take them home after the Ceremony

5. Sources:

**Church of the Resurrection Library:**

Check out the Saints and Holy People and Children's Book area of our library.  
(located by the conference room in the gathering space)

**Internet Resources:**

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp>

**Public Library Resources:**

<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/>

**Any other sources please contact Sheila for approval. I also have a private library in the office that I can share as a resource if needed.**

**DUE on March 4th, 11th, or 18th.**

**Turn in to Sheila on one of the Lent Prayer and Parish Service Nights.**

# Resurrection Youth Ministry

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### Saint Shield Project: Coat of Arms Diagram Instructions

- Each statement/question is a separate section on your Saint Shield
- Include the name of the saint in a bold manner
- Example images are below.
- Be creative!
- Sign your name

### Coat of Arms Diagram

Profession or Vocation?

Date of Birth/Date of Death?

Feast Day?

**Why is this person considered a saint?**

Summarize the life story of this person.

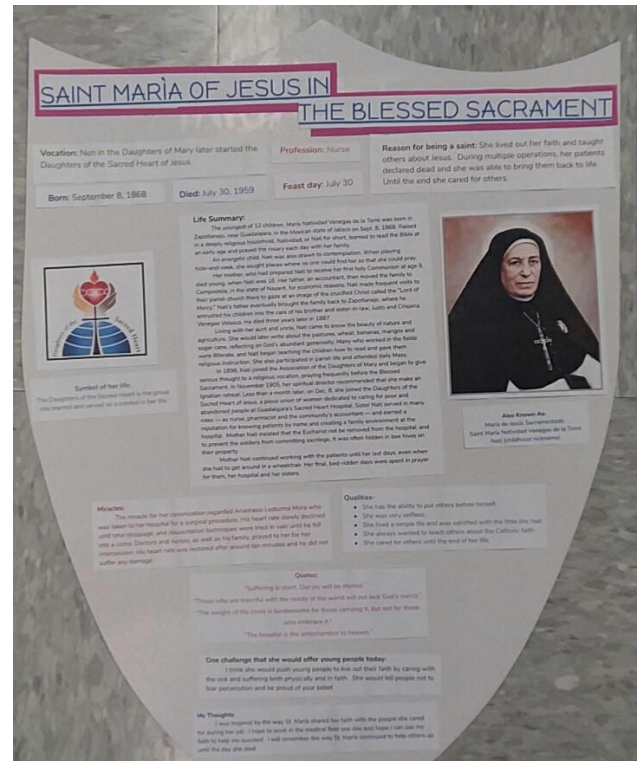
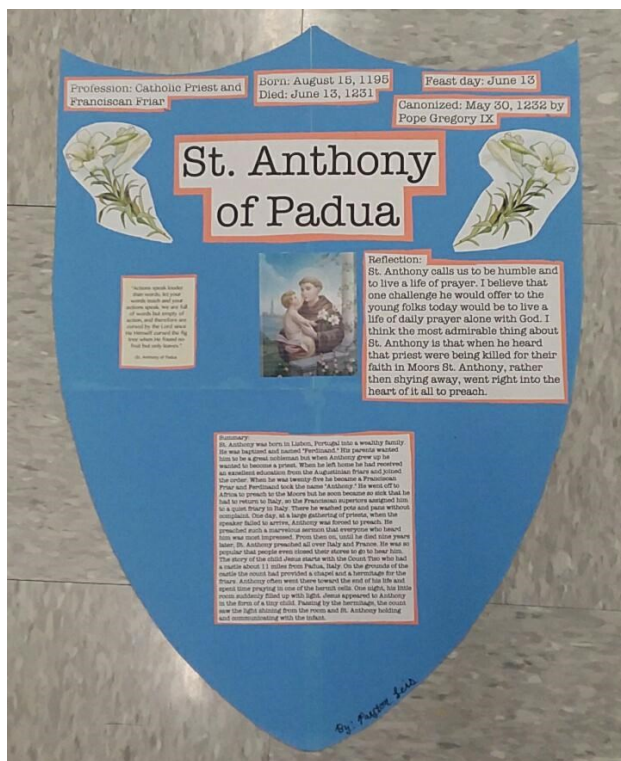
**Describe personal qualities of this saint that others are called to model.**

Include a symbol of his or her life.

**Include your choice of the following to visually represent the saint you chose:  
A photo, words of wisdom, teachings, quotes, books written by the person or  
anything else of this person's art, music, or prayers written.**

What would be one challenge that your saint would offer to young people today?

**Share your personal insight concerning this person,  
something admirable about them,  
What you will remember about this person?**



# **Resurrection Youth Ministry**

## **Confirmation 2: 2019-2020**

### **Letter to the Bishop**

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Christian. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a letter of request to the Bishop stating your desire. We will let you know in the fall the name of which Bishop will be presiding at the Confirmation Mass. Please follow these guidelines for your Letter to the Bishop:

#### **Greeting**

Begin your letter with the greeting:

Dear Bishop \_\_\_\_\_,

*You will be notified of the correct Bishop when the Confirmation plans are finalized. Please make sure your letter contains the correct name of the Bishop in the greeting.*

#### **Body of the Letter**

Introduce yourself and share about your journey. Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. Describe one or more activities that enabled you to experience God's love, increased your understanding of faith, and/or made you reflect on where God fits into how you want to live your life. If you have questions or any doubts, this is a good place to express them.

Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Share how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell about your gifts from the Holy Spirit. Explain how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

#### **Conclusion**

Conclude the letter and write your complete signature.

This letter should be **1 page in length** and **TYPED** on a separate sheet of white typing paper or nice stationery. Please deliver the letter to Church of the Resurrection intact (not torn, crumpled, or folded at all). The Bishop requests a letter from each individual requesting confirmation; he will read every one of them. I will be sending them together in a packet from Church of the Resurrection.

**This is due to Sheila Pelowski no later than Sunday, March 1, 2020.**

**Church of the Resurrection  
Attn: Sheila Pelowski  
1600 11th Ave SE  
Rochester, MN 55904**