



# St. Michael Junior High Youth Ministry

317 W. Willow Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

Cathy Swanson  
Coordinator

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Phone: (630) 462-5044 Fax: (630) 690-3324

E-mail: [cathyswanson5044@gmail.com](mailto:cathyswanson5044@gmail.com)

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Dear 2012 Confirmation Candidate,

In April of 2012 you will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. It will be your choice, your move! God and the Church do not force grace on you, you must be receptive to it. Realize that when you stand before the bishop, you choose to do so, not your friends, not your adult Confirmation leaders. Open your mind and heart to this graced moment and receive the Holy Spirit that the bishop and the Church will confer on you. Confirmation, like the other Sacraments of Initiation, marks the beginning of a journey toward deeper knowledge of God. Then for years to come, you will bear witness to what loving and believing people have handed down generation after generation.

In preparing this year for Confirmation you are asked to choose one Sponsor. No one comes to faith alone. We see the witness others give, and others see the beginnings of holiness in us. Confirmation, like Baptism, requires a sponsor, a practicing Catholic who walks this final time of preparation with you, who will testify to your growing faith and at the same time, promise to serve as a model for continuing growth. Confirmation sponsors should already be such models. They are often chosen from among family members or friends who have already been leading the way since infancy, or members of our parish community who have been strong witnesses to their Catholic faith or even one of your godparents who made a commitment to your faith formation at your Baptism.

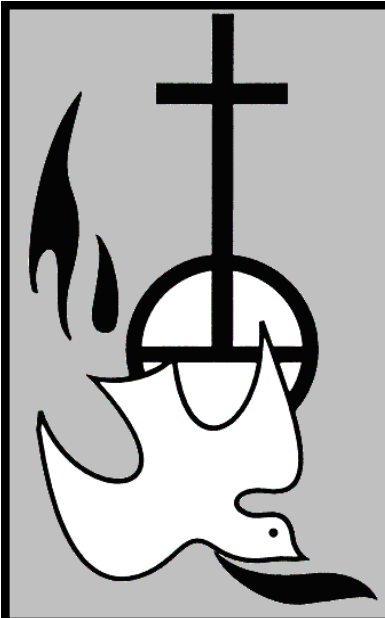
Please consider carefully who you would like to ask to be your sponsor then fill in the ***Confirmation Information Form*** and return it to the Faith Formation Office. This is **due by August 1<sup>st</sup>**. Then give the ***Affirmation of Confirmation Sponsor*** form to your sponsor. They should fill out page 3 and then take the form to the Catholic Church office where they are currently registered members. Have their pastor fill out page 4 and then return the completed form to the Faith Formation Office no later than **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

We realize that this decision is an important one and that you may need some time to decide, so we ask that you begin considering your choice for a sponsor now so that the forms will be returned to the Faith Formation Office by the due dates.

In past years there have been individuals who have had trouble finding a sponsor. If you would like, we would be happy to help you find a parishioner who would be willing to walk this journey with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me and I will be happy to help in any way I can.

May God continue to bless you on your journey,

*Cathy Swanson*



**DUE AUGUST 1, 2011 -  
Confirmation Information Form**

**DUE DECEMBER 1, 2011 -  
Affirmation of Confirmation Sponsor**  
*(Please be sure this has been signed by the Sponsor's pastor  
BEFORE returning to our office.)*

According to Canon Law of the Catholic Church, a Confirmation Sponsor is a person who must:

- be designated by the one to be confirmed and have the intention of fulfilling this function
- It further states that, “A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness...”)
- have completed the sixteenth year of age (been born before April 1, 1996)
- be a practicing Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation and who leads a life of faith
- not be the (biological) father or mother of the one to be confirmed
- If married, was validly married in the Catholic Church in accordance with Church Laws.

*Please note that the sponsor may be male or female. It used to be a male sponsor for boys and female sponsor for girls. This is no longer necessary.*



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Mrs. Cathy Swanson, Coordinator  
Faith Formation Office  
317 W. Willow Avenue · Wheaton, IL 60187  
Phone: (630) 462-5044 · Fax (630) 690-3324

Please PRINT CLEARLY and complete BOTH the Candidate's Information and the Sponsor Information before returning this to the Faith Formation Office by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Section 1: Candidate's Information

Confirmation Candidate's full BAPTISMAL Name (First, Middle, Last)			Gender (male or female)		
Home Address		City	State	Zip ( ) -	Home Phone
Email Address				Birth date / /	
Baptized Roman Catholic? Yes _____ No _____			Place of Birth (City and State)		
Name of Church where Baptized			Father's First and Last Name		
Street Address of Church where Baptized			Mother's First, <u>Maiden</u> and Last Name		
City		State	Zip	Confirmation Name (If known, if not leave blank.)	
Month /	Day /	Year of Baptism		Date of Confirmation (to be filled in by the office)	

## Section 2: Sponsor's Information

Sponsor's Full Name (First, Middle, Last)			Relationship Candidate (Cannot be a Parent)		
Sponsor's Complete Address		City	State	Zip	
( )	Sponsor's Phone		Sponsor's Date of Birth (Sponsor must have been born before 4/1/1996)		
Sponsor's e-mail address					
Has this Sponsor been Baptized Roman Catholic?		Yes _____	No _____		
Has this Sponsor received First Communion?		Yes _____	No _____		
Has this Sponsor been Confirmed?		Yes _____	No _____		
Is this Sponsor currently a practicing Catholic?		Yes _____	No _____		

Please return this form after EVERYTHING IS COMPLETELY FILLED IN. Due August 1<sup>st</sup>.

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## Letter to the Confirmation Sponsor

Dear Confirmation Sponsor,

Greetings! What an honor it is for you to have been asked to be a sponsor for Confirmation! A young person has seen something in you that inspired them! This may or may not come as a surprise to you. Nonetheless, it is a tribute to you not to be taken lightly. You have a significant role in the preparation of the one to be confirmed.

Here at St. Michael Parish, Confirmation is offered to our young teens already facing many challenges. Do you remember those adolescent years when we questioned the wisdom of our parents and authority figures, of wondering how and if you fit in the Church, or if it was even cool to be involved in a church? The road to self-discovery and maturity of faith is not easy. That is why you are so important. You are to be a mentor on this journey.

I am concerned that sometimes, kids are confirmed because everyone else is doing it. That is not a valid reason! As a sponsor, I need your help to witness that confirmation is a faith commitment. Church law stipulates that to be qualified as a sponsor, you must be a practicing Catholic and lead a life in harmony with the teachings of the Church. That is your witness to the one you are sponsoring. If you are minimally practicing your faith at this time, I would ask you to use this time to become more faithful in your participation at Sunday Mass. (The Bishop finds it highly unusual and a contradiction when a sponsor does not regularly attend Sunday Mass or does not receive communion at the Confirmation Mass.) I would hope that whenever possible you and the young person you are sponsoring could attend Mass together or come together to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

I thank you for your willingness to witness our Catholic faith by being a sponsor for Confirmation. If there is anything we can do to assist you in your role, please feel free to contact us at St. Michael's.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Don E. McLaughlin,  
Pastor of St. Michael Parish  
Wheaton, IL

## Instructions to the Confirmation Sponsor

It is a very ancient custom of the Church that a person being confirmed has a Sponsor. The sponsor, together with the bishop, represents the Church in receiving the person into full communion with the Church. As a sponsor, you are also called upon to assist the parents in educating and forming the candidate in the Catholic faith.

Please complete the *Confirmation Sponsor Information* section including your signature and the date. Then bring this form to your parish office and ask your pastor to complete the *Pastor's Affirmation of Confirmation Sponsor* page including his signature and parish seal.

**This completed form should be returned by Dec. 1, 2011 to:**

Mrs. Cathy Swanson  
St. Michael Parish  
317 W. Willow Avenue  
Wheaton, IL 60187

This section should be filled out by the Confirmation Sponsor:

## Confirmation Sponsor Information

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a registered member of \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT Sponsor's Name) (Name of Catholic Parish)

and have been asked to be the Confirmation Sponsor for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Candidate's first and last name)

I affirm that:

- I have already received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
- I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by receiving Him in Holy Communion, at least during the Easter Season.
- I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the community life of the Church by my loving response to those whom I come in contact with daily.
- If married: I was validly married in the Catholic Church in accordance with Church Laws.
- I shall give support to this candidate whom I am sponsoring by my prayer and by the example of my life.
- I am over 16 years old.
- I am not the candidate's father or mother.

I understand and accept the responsibility I undertake as a Sponsor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sponsor's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

This section should be filled out, signed, and sealed by the Sponsor's Pastor:

## Pastor's Affirmation of the Confirmation Sponsor

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of  
(Sponsor's First and Last Name)

assuming the duties and responsibilities of the role of sponsor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Pastor's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Parish)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parish Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Church Seal