

St. Norbert Youth Ministry's

Confirmation Program



2009-2010
Confirmation 1 Packet of Info

St. Norbert Youth Ministry's Confirmation Program

We believe that youth are an essential part of the faith community here at St. Norbert Catholic Church. Youth Ministry is a safe and welcoming place where young people can make and develop positive relationships with each other, our loving God and His Church.

We serve our high school youth by providing a place where their emotional, physical and spiritual needs are met. As a reflection of the love and support that our Lord, parish and community have given us, we gladly serve them all through joyful, Christian service.

We offer our youth a variety of opportunities to help them understand, appreciate and experience that they are not only the Church of the future, but they are the Church of today with a future. We also offer a retention program after Confirmation, to keep your teens connected to this ministry through their entire high school career.

Youth Ministry Office Contact Information

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Find paperwork, newsletters and us on the web:

www.stnorbertchurch.org/youthministry.html

Any off-campus event requires a Minor Release Permission Slip which can be downloaded off of the Youth Ministry Web Site.

A monthly publication of the Youth Ministry Newsletter will be mailed to all registered members of our Youth Ministry Program at St. Norbert. The newsletters will contain a message to the youth, a detailed calendar page showing the month's events, followed by articles giving detailed information about the events and other useful information. The newsletter in PDF form will also be available online once it is published each month.

St. Norbert Youth Ministry

Confirmation I Schedule of Events

2009-2010

August 2009

August 30th – Parent/Teen Orientation & Retreat Meeting
in the Gym 3:30 – 5:15 pm

September 2009

September 22nd - Community Building Night in the GYM 7:30 – 9:00 pm

October 2009

October 4th – Mass and Dinner with your Classes 4:30 – 8:30 pm
Meet in the Gym to find out who is in your class!

October 16th–18th Confirmation I Retreat!!
October 25th - Teen/Sponsor Event - **Retreat Reunion Potluck Dinner** 6:30 – 9:00 pm
For the Families, too!

November 2009

November 17th - Class #1 IN HOMES 7:30 – 9:00 pm
November 22nd - Teen Sponsor Event and Mass AT CHURCH 4:00 – 6:30 pm

December 2009

December 1st - Class #2 AT CHURCH 7:30 – 9:00 pm
December 15th – Class #3 IN HOMES 7:30 – 9:00 pm

January 2010

January 12th Class #4 AT CHURCH 7:30 – 9:00 pm
January 24th Teen/Sponsor Event AT CHURCH 4:00 – 6:30 pm

February 2010

February 2nd – Class #5 IN HOMES 7:30 – 9:00 pm
February 23rd – Class #6 AT CHURCH 7:30 – 9:00 pm

March 2010

March 9th – Class #7 IN HOMES 7:30 – 9:00 pm
March 23rd – Class #8 AT CHURCH 7:30 – 9:00 pm

April 2010

April 13th – Class #9 IN HOMES 7:30 – 9:00 pm
April 27th – Class #10 AT CHURCH 7:30 – 9:00 pm

May 2010

May 11th - Class #11 – End of the Year BBQ!! 6:00 – 8:30 pm

...A LITTLE ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION...

In every Sacrament, four elements come into play. First, there is God's love expressed in the free, gratuitous gift of grace; sacraments are for people. Second, there is a visible sign. Knowing we are creatures with eyes, ears and other sense perceptions, God uses external signs as a means of conveying His favors. Third, there is the inner disposition of the recipient. Each person has to say "YES". God always respects our human freedom. Finally, there is the faith of the gathered community that is also expressed in that sign.

All of these are present in Confirmation. God's special gift in that Sacrament is that of the Holy Spirit. That Spirit means God's creative, active love – a spirit that makes Holy and Godlike those who receive it. The rite itself places the accent on the Spirit as God's gift. Tracing the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one confirmed, the bishop will say "(Your Saint's name), be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

The interior disposition is also of importance. God forces himself on no one. Here there is a dynamic tension between freedom of God's gift and the "yes" of the person. A Sacrament is not magic; it requires that "yes." On the other hand, it is also impossible to measure the effectiveness of a Sacrament by the emotional intensity of the recipient. Perhaps that is best understood if one sees a Sacrament, not as a single moment or event, but a part of a process that must continue throughout one's life. This is another step in your faith journey.

Confirmation, when administered at that moment of passage into young adulthood, permits the recipients to place themselves consciously in God's loving care as they utter, to the best of their ability and with all the insecurity that characterizes the human condition, their "Yes" to Him. It also permits them at that moment of entering Catholic adulthood to express their belonging to a larger body, the Church, and it permits the community to express its encouragement to them in its own act of faith.

At times we may wonder about God's mysterious ways with us. We may wonder why, centuries ago, Confirmation became separated from the other Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism and Eucharist). At that moment in our life when such a decision is imperative on our part, it could be that this is the way that God is giving us a more complete and meaningful way of entering into His Body, the Church. We thank Him for such a blessing and we must make the absolute most of it!

The Confirmation Process & Requirements

All youth who desire Confirmation will commit to engage in a lifelong practice of their faith. Preparation for this sacrament consists of formation, Christian service and leadership. Proof of the candidate's readiness will be determined by the actions and attitude of each individual candidate and their regular and consistent attendance through this two-year process.

1. The Confirmation preparation process is open to all high school youth who have received the other Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism and First Eucharist. The candidate must be at least in the 9th grade to begin the process, and the earliest date youth are confirmed in our Diocese is in the Spring of their 10th grade.
2. Each teen must register! This includes all necessary forms (family info, medical releases, etc.), a copy of the candidate's Baptismal and First Communion certificates and the Registration fees. All events that are off campus will require a Minor Release form. A blank form can be found on the Youth Ministry website at all times.
3. For those of you already enrolled in Catholic High Schools... taken from the Diocese of Orange, Confirmation Preparation Directives from Bishop McFarland's letter "...while it may be assumed that students in our Catholic high schools are receiving a good background of basic religious knowledge, it must be emphasized that preparation for Confirmation involves more than just knowledge of faith and morals. Consequently, students attending our Catholic high schools are to be involved in the parish Confirmation program on a regular basis."

4. **Regular involvement in the St. Norbert Parish's Confirmation Program includes active participation in all of the following:**

- a. **Regular attendance at Sunday Mass:** As Catholics, the core of our faith experience is the Holy Mass in which we receive the Eucharist. All students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation should be attending Mass regularly with their families, and as often as possible, receive God's graces, blessings and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We encourage you to attend the youth Mass at St. Norbert at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. This Mass will provide opportunity for your teen to be involved in the Mass (such as lecturing, ushering, being a Eucharistic Minister, etc.) and to participate in Youth Music that will be present at our Youth Ministry and Confirmation events.
- b. **Confirmation Classes:** There are in-home classes, classes in the Gym and sponsor events for each of the two years. You are **required** to attend **all** classes and events that are listed on the Master Calendar of Events. If your teen will be absent from any Confirmation event, please contact your teen's teacher in advance to let them know. All the dates and times for classes and events are on your Confirmation Schedule of Events at the front of this packet. If your teen misses two Mandatory Events, he or she will be required to attend a half-day workshop which will be offered quarterly beginning in the Winter if there is a need.

Home Classes: These are small faith-sharing groups that meet in the catechists' homes, generally once a month on a Tuesday evening from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. The teens will go directly to the homes and will not come to St. Norbert on these evenings. Parents – please ensure that your teen is dropped off on time and is picked up promptly at 9:00 p.m. Students will be meeting at the same house for both Confirmation years. All adults over the age of 18 living in the homes in which your teens will be meeting will be required to be fingerprinted and Safe Environment trained through standard Diocesan protocol.

Gym Classes: Consist of all Confirmation teens gathering together as a large group to share their faith through activities, music, guest speakers and prayer in the Family and Youth Center Gym. Parents – please ensure that your teen is dropped off on time and is picked up promptly at 9:00 p.m. You are welcome to drop your teen off as early as 7pm if they are interested in socializing with other teens and the Vision team. We will begin promptly at 7:30 out of respect of the schedule of our speakers.

Sponsor Events: These afternoons are organized for the teens and their sponsor to gather together throughout this two year process. They will feature activities such as music, guest speakers and prayer in the Family and Youth Center Gym. These are usually held on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. which includes attending 5:30 pm Mass together (requirement). Sponsors are highly encouraged to take their candidate out for dinner afterwards to process the earlier discussion and to spend quality time together.

- c. **Confirmation Retreats:** There is one weekend retreat held each year of the Confirmation process. The teens are required to attend our weekend retreat **each** year. This is an incredible experience for the young people to grow closer to God and to build relationships with their small groups. A retreat experience each year is mandatory by the Diocese and is central to this Confirmation program.
- d. **Year-Long Service Project:** Each parent and teen is to develop a service project in your community, neighborhood or workplace. This service project is enacted to produce consistent, long-term service that is goal-oriented and focuses on being Christ to another person. The goal is relational and spiritual. **You will be required to submit your Service Project Proposal by Friday, October 2nd.** This Service Project Proposal Sheet can be found at the back of this packet.

The following are the parameters of the Service Project:

1. Determine a person in need from a high-risk or special demographic (i.e. an elderly person, a single parent, a widow, an academically struggling junior high school adolescent, etc.). *This person cannot be someone in your family.*

2. Determine a need (i.e. help with yard work, child care, loneliness, tutoring, etc.)
3. Set a service schedule with your teen (minimum of twice monthly, for a minimum of one hour at a time). The service should NOT receive any monetary compensation at any time – that is why it is called service!
4. Consult the person in need and offer your service to get their approval for your teens' help.
5. Keep a log of your hours (they are “sign off-able” by Kirsten to qualify for your service hours needed at the Catholic High Schools).
6. Take pictures, keep mementos, journal after your service in a notebook with the date, time, hours of service and what you accomplished.

**Parents, this service portion is not meant to be burdensome. It is meant for you to develop a service project with your teen that requires commitment, perseverance, consistency and a sacrifice. God tells us in Romans that “Faith without good works is dead.” This is an opportunity for your teen to be the hands, face and smile of Christ to someone who is in need in your own community. Encourage them, hold them accountable and watch as God works miracles through them and their efforts.

Again, your teen will get service hours, but the idea is to stray away from the concept that service is obligatory and transition to service being a way of life and a way of actively living our faith. Service is one portion of this program but will enhance your teen’s ability to take ownership of a project from start to finish.

Tips for developing the service project:

- Keep it in your neighborhood – having to travel far will inhibit your commitment to this project.
- Be realistic – if you are physically challenged in any way, be cautious about what you commit yourself to doing regularly.
- Set the time that you are committing to at a time that you are available.
- Choose something that you can take seriously.

Ideas of the service project (don’t limit yourself to these by any means):

- Tutoring a younger child in your neighborhood who is struggling academically
- Helping out a single parent by offering childcare so he or she can run family errands
- Visit a widow and help him or her around the house
- Help a disabled neighbor with yard work or offer to help them with their grocery shopping
- Cook a meal for a family or someone who is sick or unable to, twice a month
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or any local service organization
- Walk a neighbor’s pet who is unable to do so for any reason
- If you play a musical instrument, coordinate a time each month for you to play your instrument for the residents
- Help out on two Saturdays each month with Christian Services (i.e. come from 9-11 a.m.)

e. **Eucharistic Adoration:** Confirmation teens are required to join us for the youth hour with their sponsor **at least twice** throughout the program year. They will be required to sign in, in the Youth Ministry Adoration notebook each time they visit. If the sponsor is unable to attend due to uncontrollable circumstances, a parent may sit in as a proxy. The Youth Ministry Adoration hour will always be from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary and will feature music, testimonies and meditations on the Eucharist. See your monthly newsletter for more information or any deviations from the regular plan.

Teens are encouraged to come to First Friday Adoration every month to experience the presence of Christ and to strengthen their prayer life.

Eucharistic Adoration is a form of worship and praise to our God. As Catholics, we believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, that the bread and wine consecrated during Mass has become the true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Eucharist is the center and the summit of our faith, and in honor of the awesome gift given to us, we reserve the Eucharist or the Blessed Sacrament in a special place in the Church, the Tabernacle.

In recognition of the real presence of Christ in the Host, we expose the Host in an object called the monstrance. During this form of Liturgy, called Exposition, the priest places the Host in the center of the Monstrance. The assembly, kneeling, proceeds to pray, each in their own way, placing themselves before the presence of God. Adoration of the Eucharist may be done in many ways. Some people pray the rosary, read scripture or sit quietly placing themselves in the Lord's presence. Many just listen to what the Lord wants to say to them. Exposition ends with Benediction, in which the priest prays with the people and then concludes by raising the Monstrance high, and with it makes a sign of the cross blessing the people present. Reposition concludes Benediction when the priest places the Host back in the Tabernacle.

Adoration can also take place by merely praying before the tabernacle in the church. Therefore, the Eucharist does not have to be exposed in order for one to partake in Adoration. Many church groups gather in prayer before the tabernacle to pray the rosary or other forms of prayer. Often prayer groups will use their Adoration time to pray for vocations, for the healing of the sick, for conversion in the world, prayers for family, friends and others. It is also a time to pray for our own needs.

This form of worship leads us to a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus. It is done monthly by each parish on a certain assigned day in our Diocese to pray for vocations to the religious life along with other needs already mentioned. Exposition of the Eucharist usually takes place after the last morning Mass and proceeds until the next morning. St. Norbert has 24-hour Adoration every First Friday of each and every month. However many hours you choose to pray, this form of prayer is powerful and many have experienced tremendous blessings in their lives and that of others.

- f. **Year 2 – Bishop's Letter** During the second year of Confirmation preparation, each teen is required to write a one-page letter to the Bishop explaining why they desire to be Confirmed. The rubric for this letter will be distributed half way through the second year and all instructions for this will be covered at the classes.
- g. **Saint Project** – During the second year of Confirmation preparation, each teen will be required to complete a Saint Project. Details about this project will be given out at the classes. The Saint chosen for this project will be the Saint name used at the time of Confirmation. The teens will be working on a portion of these projects in their classes and a portion of them on their own.
- h. **Community Life in the Parish:** Be a part of the parish! Opportunities are available through service projects, St. Norbertfest, Liturgy involvement, attendance at Parish wide events such as Summer Social, and participation with other parish ministries. Get involved!

St. Norbert Youth Ministry Confirmation Sponsor Information

How to Choose a Sponsor:

1. Taken from the "Pastoral Commentary on the Parish Celebration of Confirmation for the Diocese of Orange," by Norman McFarland, past Bishop of Orange, and the Office of Religious Education and the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Diocese of Orange:
 - a.) Pastors must ascertain the spiritual qualifications of the sponsors. The sponsor is to be sufficiently mature and a **practicing** Catholic, who has him/herself been confirmed and has not been prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.

b.) One of the Baptismal sponsors is not only allowed, but is in fact desired as the Confirmation sponsor, so as to emphasize the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. (At Baptism, one of the godparents may be non-Catholic, called a “Christian witness,” however, one of the godparents must be a practicing Catholic in good standing. At Confirmation, if you choose one of your godparents, it **must** be the godparent who is a practicing Catholic.)

2. Canon Law (Canon 884) states that a sponsor should be at least 16 years old unless a different age has been established by the Bishop. Canon Law also recommends (but does not require) that one of the teen’s Godparent’s be the confirmation sponsor (Canon 893). This is highly desired but may be problematic especially if the Godparent lives far away. You also should strongly consider selecting someone who lives locally so they can be present at the Teen and Sponsor events and available to you for discussions about your experiences. **A teen’s parent cannot be his/her sponsor.**

The important thing to stress when it comes to meeting these requirements is that whoever is chosen as the sponsor is ready to accept the responsibility to see that the “confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this Sacrament (Canon 892). Siblings can be sponsors which can be an amazing opportunity if the sponsors take their roles seriously and if we allow the work of the Holy Spirit to take place.

3. Remember: You do not choose the sponsor to “honor” the sponsor. You choose the sponsor to fill your need to mentor with an adult Christian witness for the two year preparation period and ongoing, as necessary in your life. Choose someone who fits these qualifications. Do not settle for just anyone! This is a very important role and crucial choice!

Sponsor Events and Requirements

Sponsor Form

All Confirmation Sponsors are required to fill out and submit a St. Norbert Confirmation Sponsor Form (found at the back of this packet) by the first Teen/Sponsor event. If the sponsor is not a member of St. Norbert, he or she is required to get the Pastor’s seal and signature of their home parish. For increased convenience for the sponsor, the Sponsor Form is also available online on our website.

The Sponsor and candidate are required to attend (2) First Friday Adorations together from 7:00-8:15 p.m. at St. Norbert throughout each of the two Confirmation years. The teen and sponsor will be required to sign in, in the Youth Ministry notebook to get credit for visiting the Blessed Sacrament. Information on these events will always be in the monthly newsletter.

Confirmation I 2009-2010 Sponsor Events:

Sunday, October 25, 2009 – Retreat Reunion Potluck Dinner	6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 22, 2009 – Teen/Sponsor Event and Mass	4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 24, 2010 – Teen/Sponsor Event and Mass	4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation II 2009-2010 Sponsor Events:

Sunday, December 6, 2009 – Teen/Sponsor Event and Mass	4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 31, 2010 – Teen/Sponsor Event and Mass	4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 11, 2010 - Retreat Reunion Potluck Dinner	6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

*Sponsor must also attend the Confirmation Rehearsal which will be on the Sunday evening before the Confirmation Ceremony and the Confirmation Ceremony

St. Norbert Youth Ministry Policies

Code of Behavior

We expect that the members of a Catholic Youth Community behave in a manner which demonstrates our Catholic Christian values and morality. We believe both our Team and youth have a responsibility to co-create an atmosphere of unconditional love, respect and support. In Youth Ministry, we remind each other that we were made to be servants of Jesus Christ and called to be people of character, conscience and courage.

Unacceptable Behaviors

Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons

Drugs (illegal narcotics, alcohol and smoking) or weapons are strictly forbidden at any Youth Ministry event. In the event that there is a circumstance involving any substances or weapons, immediate action will be taken.

Fighting

Fighting is strictly forbidden at any Youth Ministry event. Immediate action will be taken with any youth involved in fighting.

Property Damage

We have beautiful facilities here at St. Norbert, and we need to take great care of them! All youth will show respect toward church property and all facilities that we visit. Youth that purposely damage church property or other property will be held financially responsible for repair or replacement costs.

Driving

As teens get older, they get their driver's license and maybe even a car! With that license and car comes freedom, but also a tremendous responsibility. Please take note of the following policies for teen drivers:

1. Teens **are** allowed to drive their own cars to any Youth Ministry or Confirmation event held on Parish grounds.
2. Teens are **NOT** allowed to drive other teens in carpooling situations, once they arrive at the Youth Ministry event. In caravanning or carpooling situations, all minors must ride with a person 25 years or older to an event that is off of the Parish grounds.
3. During events, teens are not allowed to leave via car with any other teen (to pick up other teens, fast food runs, drink runs, etc.).
4. We ask for a respect for the environment when you are driving into the parking lot – watch what type of music you're playing and how loud it is! Mass, events or prayer time for those in the church could be going on. And respect the parking lot... watch your speed and park appropriately in marked stalls only!
5. The number of persons per vehicle must never exceed the number of seat belts for autos and vans, or the posted capacity on buses or coaches. Teens can **NEVER** ride in cargo areas.
6. Parents – we'll need your help when it comes to driving our precious cargo of teens!

Food

It is our pleasure to offer hospitality in the form of food and drink at many of our events. Please let us know if you have any severe allergies or dietary restrictions that could harm you, before the event that you are attending to increase our awareness and to prevent any illness or incident.

Incident Reports

Incidents which involve the health, safety or personnel of the Youth Ministry staff or Team shall be reported to the Pastor, the Youth Minister and the Director of Risk Management or the other appropriate authority. All such reports will be kept confidential unless otherwise stated or governed by the church, state or federal laws mandating disclosure.

Medical Incident Reports

All incidents which result in the physical injury or medical treatment must be reported to the Pastor, Youth Minister and the Director of Risk Management, as soon as possible after the medical emergency has been handled by professional care personnel.

5. Keep a log of your hours (they are “sign off-able” by Kirsten to qualify for your service hours needed at the Catholic High Schools because they are direct hours) in a spiral notebook. Take pictures of yourself in action, invite others to join you in your service, keep mementos, journal after your service in a notebook with the date, time, hours of service and what you accomplished. And pay special attention to what God is trying to teach you or how He is trying to use you through your work.

Confirmation Candidate:

By signing below, I am committing to actively serve the cause that I have deemed appropriate and suitable for this purpose. I will approach all service hours with an open mind and an open heart. I will seek God in what I do and whom I meet through this process. I will take this seriously and stay on top of my service requirement because I take this Confirmation process seriously.

Confirmation Teen

Date

Parent of Confirmation Teen:

By signing below, I am committing to actively ensure that my teen serves the cause that we have deemed appropriate and suitable for this purpose and that he/she fulfills the commitment that we are agreeing to. I will keep my teen accountable to this commitment and encourage them in their service in a timely, consistent manner.

Parent of Confirmation Teen

Date

Approval of the Project from the Youth Minister

Kirsten King, Youth Minister

Date



Confirmation Program Sponsor Form

300 East Taft Avenue, Orange, CA 92865 • 714.637.4360x210 / Fax 714.637.4311 • www.stnorbertchurch.org

Congratulations! A young candidate of our parish has asked you to be a Sponsor. This invites you into a new spiritual relationship with this teen in which you become a representative of the church and a model of Christian discipleship. For our records, and to ascertain that the canonical requirements of a Confirmation Sponsor have been met, we ask you to complete and return the following information:

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____
City Zip

Phone: _____ Email _____

Are you a Catholic in good standing with the church? _____

What parish are you registered in? _____

Name of Candidate: _____

How long have you known this Candidate?: _____

What is your relationship to him/her? _____

Do you know your Candidate to be a person of faith,
committed to the Catholic way of life? _____

In what ways have you witnessed his/her growth in Christian faith?: _____

Do you try to live your life according to Catholic values, moral and ethics? _____

Are you willing to be a companion to this Candidate in her/his faith journey? _____

In what ways are Catholic faith and the church community important to you? _____

(Please complete reverse)

Are you baptized in the Roman Catholic Church? _____

Have you been Confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church? _____

Do you receive Eucharist regularly? _____

Are you at least 16 years of age? _____ If not, what is your age? _____

Do you attend mass: Weekly Once or twice a month Holidays Seldom

Are you Single Married Divorced & not remarried
 Divorced & remarried Widowed

If married, were you married in the presence of a priest or deacon in accordance with Catholic marriage regulations? Yes / No

If not, why not _____

Are you in an annulment process for any previous marriage of yourself or your spouse? Yes / No

I testify to the accuracy of my answers _____
Signature

If you are not a registered member of St. Norbert Parish in Orange, please have the pastor of the church where you are registered complete and sign below:

This person is registered in _____ parish located in

_____. To the best of my knowledge, the information provided above

is correct and he/she has permission to be a Sponsor of a Confirmation Candidate at St. Norbert Church in Orange, CA

Signature of Pastor