



## **REQUIRED SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE KICK OFF**

*On **Monday, September 12**, we will gather our students at our Kick Off event for Level II candidates. Back again is Bryan Mercier who shared with our students last year a powerful message. He will continue to share with us his thoughts on preparing for Confirmation and Catholic Christian witness.*

### **ENROLLMENT MASS AND FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

*On **Sunday, October 16** at the 5:00 Teen Mass, our students will be presented at our Eucharistic Liturgy. In the presence of God and the community of faith, the students will become candidates as they affirm their willingness to enter into serious consideration and preparation for Confirmation. Immediately following, there will be a Fellowship Dinner for candidates and their catechists.*

### **KISS A FROG**

*In **November**, your class will be assigned to attend one of our three sessions with a parent. Kiss a Frog is an engaging experience for parents and candidates. It provides a greater understanding of the Church and helps to nurture a sense of community within the parish. Our presenting team has a unique way of bridging the generation gap so that both parent and child can embrace their faith together.*

### **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

*Your class will be assigned to attend one of our reconciliation events during Advent and then again right before Confirmation. Catechists must attend with their class. Candidates will be walked through an examination of their conscience prior to going to reconciliation.*

### **USING GOD TO MAKE DECISIONS**

*On **Monday, January 30**, Father Bob Kinnally will come with some of our seminarians to talk about decision-making. He will share with us concrete ways to use God when faced with tough choices and our seminarians will share real life examples of how God has guided them in their lives.*

### **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

*On **Sunday, February 5**, our Confirmation Retreat provides our young people with an extended experience of prayers, activity and faith sharing. Facilitated by Sean Forrest, the retreat is designed to help students recognize their need for the Holy Spirit so that they may live the Catholic Christian life. Time is also spent on the need to witness Christ in their everyday lives. The retreat is a diocesan Confirmation requirement and concludes with celebrating the Eucharist at the 5:00 Teen Mass.*

### **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT WORKSHOP**

*In **March**, your class will be assigned to attend one of our two sessions with a parent. Facilitator Andrea Woronick will guide candidates and their parents through an interactive program focused on the seven gifts that will be bestowed upon them on the day of their Confirmation. Attendees walk away with a new found understanding of what really might be a bit more important in their lives.*

### **CONFIRMATION CHALLENGE**

*In **April**, your class will be assigned to one of our four sessions. Designed as a final review of information that Bishop Lori will expect our students to know and understand signaling readiness for reception of the Sacrament, teams of three from each class compete in a game show format to share their knowledge of the Confirmation curriculum. Audience participation makes for a lively session in which attendees walk away knowing just how prepared they are in regards to their knowledge of the Confirmation curriculum. Catechists must attend with their classes.*



## 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. This new name would be used after your present middle name and before your family name.*

***The name chosen would represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or would represent 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.***

*You will write your Saint Report on the Saint who has the name you have chosen for your confirmation name.*



## **CONFIRMATION SAINT REPORT**

*One of your Confirmation requirements is to research a Saint and write a report on the Saint that you have selected. The report you write should be on the Saint whose name you have elected to take on as your Confirmation name. Reports are due to your catechist the week of January 23, 2012.*

### **RESEARCH**

- *Think about your Baptismal name if it is the name of a Saint.*
- *Talk to your parents/sponsors about Saints who have been important in their lives.*
- *Which statues of Saints are located inside our church? Do any of them inspire you?*
- *Visit the Religious Education Offices and check out our saint books and resources*
- *Saints "On-Line":*

*[www.catholic.org/saints/](http://www.catholic.org/saints/)*

*[www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexnt.htm](http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexnt.htm)*

*[www.silk.net/RelEd/saints.htm](http://www.silk.net/RelEd/saints.htm)*

*[www. "Your own search" . com](http://www.&#quot;Your own search&#quot;.com)*

### **REFLECT**

- *Pray for wisdom and guidance in searching out your Saint.*
- *How do each of the Saints researched fill a need in your life?*
- *Look for a trait or action that you admire or think you could achieve.*

### **REPORT**

- *Write (print or type) a minimum of one page.*
- *Attach a cover page with Saint's name, a picture of your Saint, Your name and the date.*
- *Answer these 4 questions:*

*Who is your Saint? Biographical information*

*Why was your Saint canonized? What did your Saint do to become one?*

*Why have you chosen this Saint?*

*How do you think this Saint will inspire you to lead a Catholic Christian Life?*



## CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

The sponsor must be **practicing their Catholic faith, and be fully initiated themselves**, having received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. If married, the sponsor must be practicing their religious faith by having been married in the Church.

The sponsor must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate.

The sponsor should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment.

The sponsor must support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life.

The sponsor may be either male or female for any candidate and **must be 16** by the date of the candidate's confirmation.

The sponsor may be a Baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. **The sponsor may not be a parent of the candidate.**

The sponsor must be reasonably informed on current Church teachings.

The sponsor can encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship.

The sponsor may assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation.

The sponsor may present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation.

**If the sponsor is not a member of St. Aloysius Church, they must obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their own parish stating that they are registered; a practicing Catholic and meet the above stated sponsor requirements. The certificate must accompany this form. If a proposed sponsor is over the age of 24, they should be **registered individually in the parish in which they worship** (including St. Aloysius), even if the young adult resides with their parents.**

**Please give this entire form to your catechist no later than December 9, 2011!**

CATECHIST \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor's Parish Church \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember, a Sponsor Certificate MUST be attached to this form for sponsors that are not parishioners of St. Aloysius Church.**



## **LETTER TO THE PASTOR REQUESTING CONFIRMATION**

*Before the celebration of Confirmation, your pastor is required by canon law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should know that you have a desire for and knowledge of the sacrament. To help Monsignor Scheyd meet his responsibility, we ask that you write a letter to him. Your letter is due to your catechist the week of February 27, 2012.*

*This letter should be neatly handwritten on nice paper or typed and is to address two basic questions detailed below. They should be addressed as follows and you should sign your name at the bottom of the letter:*

*Dear Monsignor Scheyd*

### ***What does Confirmation mean to you?***

*In your own words, write one or two paragraphs explaining what receiving the sacrament of Confirmation will mean to you. Think about how you will use the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that will be bestowed upon you. Think about being a witness in the world we live in today. How will you be a disciple of Christ? Are you ready to share your faith and stand up for your faith?*

### ***Why do you feel you are ready to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation?***

*Again, in your own words, write two to three paragraphs explaining why you feel you are ready. How do you feel in your heart? What do you feel when you attend Mass and participate in the Eucharist? How has the Saint you have chosen to take the name of inspired you?*

***Please take special care in proof reading your letter. Check your spelling – especially the spelling of Monsignors name!***

*You are to feel free to choose to celebrate Confirmation at another time if you fell that you are not ready and would like to wait. If, for whatever reason, you wish to delay your celebration, you may write this in your letter to Monsignor or speak with your catechist. They will try to help you with your decision.*



## **OPTIONAL INTERVIEW WITH CLERGY IN PLACE OF LETTER**

*Before the celebration of Confirmation, your pastor is required by canon law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should know that you have a desire for and knowledge of the sacrament. To help Monsignor Scheyd meet his responsibility, you may elect this year to participate in an interview with one of our priests in place of writing a letter.*

*Interviews will be conducted in February and will take approximately 20 minutes. The interview is designed to help you appreciate your growing relationship with Jesus, talk about your beliefs, grow in a life of faith and service by talking about why you feel you are ready to be confirmed and ask questions that may be on your mind.*

***The clergy member may ask you questions like the following:***

*Who has supported you in your growth in faith?*

*Who is your sponsor and why did you choose your sponsor?*

*What will your Confirmation name be and why have you selected that name?*

*Do you discuss with your parent(s) what you are learning in your Confirmation preparation?*

*Why have you decided to receive Confirmation? What does it mean to you and why do you feel you are ready?*

*How can your parents/sponsor/our parish community/I help you in your final preparation?*

*How does your family support your decision to be confirmed?*

*Do you have any questions concerning Confirmation or our faith?*

*How will you be a disciple of Christ and use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?*

*Interviews will be conducted after the retreat. More information about reserving an interview slot will be shared after Christmas.*

*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, you may discuss this with a member of our clergy. They will try to help you with your decision.*

## St. Aloysius Permission Slip

**Event/Activity:** St. Aloysius Religious Education Events

**Date(s):** 2011-2012 Religious Education Year

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My daughter/son has my permission to participate in the above names activity that is being sponsored by St. Aloysius RC Church, 40 Maple Street, New Canaan, CT. I understand that this program includes having my child together with other religious education students and with adult supervision. I also understand that my child(ren) may be transported in private automobiles by St. Aloysius employees/volunteers. The undersigned agrees not to hold St. Aloysius RC Church Inc., or its employees/volunteers liable for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from participating in these events.

Proper behavior is expected from all youth participating in any event

I have read and hereby agree to all items stated above and I assume responsibility for the actions of my daughter/son.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

In case of an emergency please provide a phone number where a parent/guardian or alternate emergency contact can be reached during the scheduled times of an event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Cell #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Cell #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Emergency Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Cell #

In the unlikely event of a medical emergency, and I cannot be contacted by phone, I give permission for emergency personnel/hospitals and/or attending physicians to treat my daughter/son.

# Works and Words



Dedicating time to live and learn about leading a Christ-centered life



***Serving others and serving Christ through prayer, worship and acts of mercy help you to grow in your Catholic faith.***

A minimum of ten (10) hours per year towards service to others, service to our Parish and exposure to places and things that make us uniquely Catholic is a requirement of the Confirmation Preparation Program.

A minimum of 3 hours of your total must be earned in Parish or Diocesan activities.

At least one of your hours must involve a Corporal Work of Mercy and one of your hours must involve a Spiritual Work of Mercy.

*Corporal Works of Mercy –An act of loving service that is concerned with the material and physical needs of others. (Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; help the imprisoned; shelter the homeless; care for the sick; bury the dead)*

*Spiritual Works of Mercy –An act of loving service that is concerned with the needs of the heart, mind and soul of others. (Share our knowledge with others by attending an approved trip or talk and then writing a summary of it and presenting it to your class or acting as an assistant in a religious education class; comfort those who suffer by spending time with the homebound or invalids; pray for the living and the dead by attending a special diocesan or parish Mass or prayer service such as the Chrism Mass, All Souls Service, Taize, Stations of the Cross, Adoration or a Waveny Prayer Service OR by visiting gravesites in the cemetery and praying at the gravesites.)*

Each student must participate in their required class service project and Works and Words service hours will be awarded for this work. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class service projects include the Living Nativity in December and the Simple Supper for Seniors in March. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class service project is Project 1,000 in October/November.

Adoration and approved trips and talks may be applied towards your hours. Opportunities will be presented throughout the year and shared by your catechist.

Any questions may be directed to your catechist or to Confirmation Coordinator Chris Otis at 203-652-1173 or at youthassistant@starcc.com.

# Works and Words



Dedicating time to live and learn about leading a Christ-centered life



Serving others and serving Christ through prayer, worship and acts of mercy help you to grow in your Catholic faith. As part of your Confirmation preparation, we ask that you dedicate a minimum of ten (10) hours per year towards service to others, service to our Parish and exposure to places and things that make us uniquely Catholic. A minimum of 3 hours must be earned in Parish or Diocesan activities. At least one of your hours must involve a Corporal Work of Mercy and one must involve a Spiritual Work of Mercy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Catechist \_\_\_\_\_

Description Of Service	Date(s) of Service	Hours of Service	Parish Or Diocesan Service <i>X box if applies</i>	Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy <i>X box if applies</i>
<b>TOTAL HOURS – <i>please total</i></b>				