

Dear Students and Parents,

Thank you for continuing on your journey toward Confirmation. I have been praying for you over the summer. Hope you were able to take a vacation and have some fun with friends and family. Confirmation strengthens the graces of Baptism and celebrates the special gift of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation also imprints a spiritual or indelible character on the soul. It is a sacrament of Initiation. " Baptism is the beginning of new life in Christ; Confirmation is it's strengthening; the Eucharist nourishes the faithful for their transformation into Christ." We are in year two of our sessions for High School Youth. The following is important information for students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- ❑ Calendar is included in the following pages.
- ❑ Sessions meet approximately twice per month, emphasizing community-building, service projects and review of Catholic teaching, especially the Sacrament of Confirmation
- ❑ Students are required to complete a youth conference or retreat experience and write about it. Details are in the following pages
- ❑ 15 hours of Community Service are to be completed and documented each year, for a total of 30 hours – 5 of those hours each year must be done within St. Anthony's parish.
- ❑ Group service project TBA.
- ❑ Students need to choose a Catholic Sponsor. The Sponsor needs to be a confirmed and practicing Catholic, who has received all their Sacraments, including the Sacrament of Marriage, if that person is married. Please choose someone you trust and respect, who can help you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- ❑ Attendance and participation in sessions are mandatory
- ❑ Attendance at Sunday Mass is expected
- ❑ Registration fee is \$50. Checks may be made payable to: St. Anthony of Padua Church. Scholarships are available if needed call for more info.
- ❑ Copies of Baptism and First Holy Communion certificates are required.

**Please be sure to read through this handbook carefully, and keep it where you can easily find it. Attached to the handbook, you will find an agreement page to sign and return at the first session August 27<sup>th</sup>. We are also required to collect an Emergency Form each year, which you will also find attached. Please fill out your sponsor info sheet and make sure all information is current. If you have questions, please call Sharon Christison at 439-0124, ext. 111.**

Blessings,

Sharon Christison  
Youth Minister

[schristison@stanthonyfresno.org](mailto:schristison@stanthonyfresno.org)

Updates and info will be posted on the website under confirmation and youth at [www.stanthonyfresno.org](http://www.stanthonyfresno.org)

## **Confirmation II Schedule 2007-2008**

Monday, August 27, 2006 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Social Hall  
**Meeting with students and at least one parent.** Forms may be turned in at that time along with the fee for second year.

Confirmation Sessions (mark your calendars)

**Mondays** are journey nights and will be held from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the Social Hall. All Monday nights are mandatory. Please call if you are unable to attend.

August 27<sup>th</sup> with parent 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the Social Hall

September 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the Social Hall

October 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm – 8:30pm in the Social Hall

November 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**24 FAST FOR FAMINE date will be announced!**

**Sunday** Life Nights are held following the 6:00pm Mass until 9:00pm. Please come at least 15 minutes early to the liturgy so that you may sit in the main with other teens.

You may choose 4 educational Life Nights from those listed below.

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>- Kick Off The Amazing Race.....

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> - Mystery Revealed

Oct 28<sup>th</sup> - Word

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> - In-Sense, Inc.

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Piece It Together

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – Triple Take

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – I am

**Day of Reflection** for both sponsor or parent and student  
January 5<sup>th</sup> **Saturday** 10am – 5pm Social Hall

**Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> Rehearsal in Church, 6:30pm student and sponsor**

**Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> Confirmation Day: Mass at 10:00am  
(Arrive by 9:30am)**

\*\*\*\*Dates are subject to change

Please call if you have any questions or concerns. I will be more than happy to meet with you or talk over the phone or email. I am here as well as the core team to help you in any way as you journey toward the sacrament of Confirmation.

559-439-0124 ext. 111, schristison@stanthonyfresno.org

## **Service Hours**

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;  
there are different workings but the same God who produces  
all of them in everyone. (1Cor 12:4-6)*

**“...whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies,  
so that in all things  
God may be glorified through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 4:11)**

Service given with no personal recompense has long been part of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Included on this list are opportunities within the parish in which to complete the hours required.

**Of the 15 hours required each year, 5 are to be completed in the parish**, the other 10 may be in the parish or with outside organizations, such as: hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, Poverello House or Holy Cross Center, Right to Life of Central California, American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, etc.

Students are responsible for arranging their own service hours with the contact person listed for each event.

## **Event Opportunities for Confirmation Students**

**Knights of Columbus**– The Knights of Columbus organization serves our parish community throughout the year with many varied functions and events. Students are always needed and welcome to help. Contact: Ed Kersten at 439-1974

### **St. Anthony’s Parish & School Carnival–Sun. Sept: 30th**

Help set-up and clean up; Help keep grounds clean throughout the day; Volunteer in a game booth or a classroom; Collect tickets for rides; Help in a Food Booth; Bake items for the Cake Walk or Store; Help in Face-painting; Plus much more.

Show up on School grounds Saturday morning for set up at 8:30am and/or Sunday morning at 9:30am to work at the carnival. Clean-up crew is especially needed. Bring your Service Hour Form to be signed off. Be bold and start asking who you can help. 439-0700

### **Ministry Fair** September 23<sup>rd</sup> morning

Set up and Clean Up: Sister Rosa Marie 439-0124 ext112

### **Right to Life Booth at the Big Fresno Fair – Oct.**

Sign up for one or more shifts to help pass out brochures and give information to those interested. Contact: Right to Life at 229-2229, ext. 15 for Nicole.

### **Italian Catholic Federation – Italian Dinner Sat. in Nov.**

The ICF provides our parish with delicious dinners several times per year. They always welcome assistance to make the event a success. Contact info will be available

### **Right to Life Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction – Dec.**

Help with set-up and/or clean-up of dinner and/or Silent Auction; Help serve dinner; Contact: 229-2229, ext. 113 for Laurie or ext. 15 for Nicole.

**Project Santa–Process begins Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 25 & 26; Drop-Off Date: TBA**  
Assist set-up, sign-up and organization for distribution of our parish Project Santa.  
Contact: Sharon Christison at 439-0124, ext. 111

**On-going Opportunities at St. Anthony's.**  
**Be sure to call ahead to reserve your hours.**

**GIFT Program (Growing in Faith Together)** – Religious Education for kids ages K – 6.  
Classes are Sundays 3:30-4:45pm and Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:45pm. Contact: Mary Briseno, 439-0124, ext. 119. If you are fluent in Spanish, please let her know.

**Liturgy of the Word with Children** – Help guide children upstairs to the choir loft and back to their pews during 9:30 and 11:00am masses on Sunday. Contact: Martha Danks-Ferguson 439-0124, ext.114

**Preschool** – Religious games, activities and stories for the little ones on Sundays during the 9:30am Mass, help needed from 9:15-10:45am. Please reserve your volunteer hours at least one week prior. Contact Cathi Keener 439-0124, ext. 173

**Meals with Wheels** – If you are good in the kitchen and would like to take an occasional meal to one of our parishioners who is laid up due to illness or injury, please contact: Debbie Diebert 439-0890

**Music Ministry** – Would you like to add to the joyful noise at Sunday Mass with an instrument or your voice? Contact: David Sarkisian 439-0124, ext.302

**Parish Office Help** – Help make copies, file, etc. After school hours 3:30 – 5:00pm. Contact Mary Mosier 439-0124, ext. 103 or Teri Loera, ext. 102 Sharon ext.111

**Stewardship/Capital Campaign Program** – Help with mailings, stuffing bulletins, etc. Contact Cathi Keener 439-0124, ext. 173

**These require individual arrangements. Please call the contact person directly.**

**Children's Hospital, Madera, CA** – Program entitled: “Big Hearts for Little Hands”.  
Volunteers are limited to 10 hours that must be arranged in advance. Call early to reserve your hours. Leave a message and the Coordinators will return your call. Contact: 353-5876.

**Community Food Bank** – Volunteer hours must be arranged in advance. Hours are M-F: 8am – 3:30pm, and Sat. 8:00am – 12noon. Contact: 237-3663

**Holy Cross Center** – Hours available on Saturdays 8:00am – 12noon. They need girls to help serve coffee, tea, and snacks. Help with some clean-up. Contact: 237-3379

**Nazareth House** – Call 237-2257

**Poverello House** – Volunteers must complete an orientation session before their first service. Orientations are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month from 11:00-11:30am. Must make arrangements in advance. Hours to volunteer are Sat/Sun 8:00am – 2:00pm. Contact: 498-6988

**CONFIRMATION II or I (circle one)  
SERVICE PROJECT REPORT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Person/Group served: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of time involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Service provided: \_\_\_\_\_

How I've grown by doing this service: \_\_\_\_\_

How has this project helped me towards Initiation?: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Projects:**

\*Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours worked: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions: Choose one project to discuss above. List the others and obtain appropriate signatures. Remember, 15 total hours are needed, at least 5 of them at the parish.**

**Due By: Jan. 5, 2008**

# Confirmation II or I Retreat Experience Report

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where was your retreat held? \_\_\_\_\_

What date? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the theme? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your experience of God at or after the retreat? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In what ways has the retreat experience helped or challenged you to live out your baptismal commitment as a Christian? Please explain.

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**Due By: Jan. 5, 2008**

# Confirmation Preparation Agreement

## 2007-2008

Student please initial each check mark.

### **Respect ourselves, Respect others and Responsibility for our actions**

#### **Attendance:**

- ✓ **Attendance and punctuality are mandatory for all sessions**
- ✓ Excused absences must be prearranged with the secretary or Youth Minister
- ✓ Tardiness is distracting and disrupts the sessions so please arrive on time

#### **Behavior:**

- ✓ Respect ourselves, Respect others and Responsibility for our actions
- ✓ Your willingness to build a caring, respectful atmosphere is an essential part of your growth into the sacramental life.
- ✓ Disruptive or rude behavior will be addressed by the leader and the Youth Minister
- ✓ **Cell phones are not allowed during our sessions**  
(any phone in use during a session will be collected and returned at the end of the session)

#### **Homework and Reading assignments:**

- ✓ Need to be completed before each session in preparation for active group participation
- ✓ If you're having difficulty with the material, ask your group leader for assistance.

#### **Community Service:**

- ✓ 15 hours of community service is to be completed each year- 5 of those must be done within St. Anthony's parish. There will be a group project on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Retreat opportunities**

- ✓ 2 retreats must be completed, one each year.
- ✓ Options this year include:
  1. Marian Conference: Radisson Hotel - Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> 8:30am – 4:30pm
  2. Inspiration – Magic Mountain Nov. 17
  3. SJM students - Class retreat given by your school
  4. Youth Conference Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> an evening and day with Matt Maher: "Transformer" more than meets the eye.

I (WE) HAVE REVIEWED THE ABOVE AND HANDBOOK WITH MY (OUR) CHILD. WE AGREE TO COMPLY WITH ALL THE RULES AND POLICIES OF ST. ANTHONY'S OF PADUA'S CONFIRMATION PROGRAM.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name