

# ***St. Rita Catholic Parish Confirmation Preparation***

## **Packet #4 - “Am I Ready?”**



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**Distributed: 27-Sep-2020**

**Due: 11-Oct-2020**

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**Welcome to your FINAL Confirmation Packet!** Included in this packet are the last few steps of your Sacramental Preparation.

**Preparation**

1. **Read** through the entire packet.
2. In several spots, you are asked to answer questions, share an experience, a story or an opinion. **Prepare for these BEFORE your meeting with your mentor.**
3. Check the online confirmation spreadsheet (link sent in an email) or call the youth office (429-5210 and ask for Julie) to find out where you stand on turning things in.

**Create the Perfect Environment**

1. Make sure you have adequate time to get through the packet, or the portion of the packet you need/wish to accomplish today. Please note that each packet takes approximately 3 hours to complete and a good chunk of that time may be used for things PRIOR to the meeting. So schedule your time accordingly.
2. Make sure you have a comfortable environment; comfortable seating, a table to write on, minimal distractions.
3. Have with you, the following items:
  - a. Your list of items you need to complete (see above)
  - b. Copies of all of your packets (they were returned to you after being reviewed)
  - c. A bible and a catechism
  - d. Your session outline
  - e. Your worksheet
  - f. Pen/Pencil/Paper
  - g. A positive, open attitude
  - h. A computer/notepad or phone with access to the internet
4. Provide a snack/meal to share. Take turns, if you wish, providing a snack to share.

**Theme**

The theme of this meeting is evaluating your readiness to receive the Sacrament and the steps that follow called "mystogogy". This is such an exciting time and hopefully you are anxiously awaiting to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and put your faith into action. You will spend time talking with your sponsor, your parents, and the staff about your readiness to receive the Sacrament.

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**The Meeting with your sponsor**

1. **Opening prayer:** Make the sign of the Cross and read aloud the Acts 1:1-5. Being by saying "A reading from the Book of Acts" and end with "The Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God"
2. **Read and Discuss:** "What does it mean to be Catholic?"
3. **Snack:** If you haven't already done so, share your snack. You are encouraged to work and discuss and eat.
4. **Closing Prayer:** Pray the prayer for the help from the Holy Spirit (below).

***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. O God, Who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, Grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen***

**What does it mean to be Catholic?**

You are about to fully initiated into the Catholic Church. What does that mean?

**Our Beliefs:** The Catholic faith was the faith started by Jesus Christ. In that upper room, nearly 2000 years ago, he met with those twelve men (actually 11, since Judas was gone by then), and commissioned them to go forth and bring others into the faith – the faith that would offer them SALVATION. Did you get that? JESUS started the Catholic Church nearly 2000 years ago. This is the real thing, not some religion started by a prophet (although he is referred to as a prophet sometimes), or some mystic, or even by some highly-schooled man. Jesus is GOD, the second leg of our Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). You can't get any more authentic than that.

Our faith IS the truth. What God has taught us through Christ is what is real. When you recite the Nicene (or Apostles Creed) you are stating your beliefs as a Catholic. Read this prayer again and stop at the end of each line to discuss:

Are there any beliefs here that you do not agree with? If so, discuss those with your sponsor and look for validation of them in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Bible, or through an accredited Catholic website. Still uncertain? Bring those questions to Fr. Tom or Mrs. Carter to discuss.

**Our Practices:** The second section, titled "Core Catholic Practices" gives you an overview of our basic practices. Many of these have been discussed in the packets you have completed up to this point. Read these together with your mentor. Are any of these practices unfamiliar to you? Again, if so, seek to find the supportive material for these points in the Catechism, the Bible, and/or an accredited Catholic website. Note these items for your interview also.

The last section is this portion of your Catholic Youth Bible, is titled "**Core Catholic Attitudes**" is a great section that describes our basic attitude towards our faith, ourselves and others. Often people have a misconception of Catholics and our beliefs. It is just that, a misconception. These points should help

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validate our position as Catholics, on how we see the world and treat others. Read and discuss each bullet point with your mentor.

These beliefs, practices and attitudes are the premise of our Catholic faith. This is what you are about to embrace through your confirmation. You are "confirming" your commitment to following Jesus Christ.

**Let's be clear:** Does commitment mean you are without some level of doubt? Or that you know everything? Or you are a Catholic Robot? ***Absolutely NOT!*** We are human! We have been given (by God) a brain, emotions, and ***Free Will***. We are human, and therefore NOT perfect. He loves us so much that he wants us to discover things on our own for with it comes great joy and love (and sometimes sorrow and pain). There are times we all may experience doubt, struggle with following His instructions, and even fail. And that is okay! But that is where WE need to work at it.

Just as a great musician or athlete continues to **practice regularly, take care of their bodies and minds, continue to challenge** themselves, **learn and grow**, and **surround themselves** with people who support them in their quest for greatness, we too, *must do those things for our faith*.

**PRACTICE:** We must practice our Catholic faith regularly. We do this by going to Mass weekly, receiving the Sacraments, praying, fasting, and serving and loving others.

**TAKE CARE:** We must take care of our bodies and minds by staying healthy and away from dangerous drugs, excessive alcohol, pornography, hatred, and other things that damage our bodies and our minds. We need to feed our bodies and minds with GOOD things.

**LEARN AND GROW:** We must continue to study and form our faith each and every day. Having questions and seeking knowledge is an important part of continuing to mature and develop our faith. We are foolish if we think we know all there is to know about it at ANY age, especially as a young adult. We continue to learn and understand more as we mature with wisdom and experience. It doesn't stop!!! And you cannot get stagnate in your pursuit of knowledge and understanding of your faith.

**SURROUND YOURSELF:** Team work is so important in so many aspects of our life. Whether it is a team of 20 friends, 5 family members, or 1 spouse, we all need someone to help us, support us, and love us. Make sure the people you surround yourself with are good support for your faith and well-being. Do they challenge you to be a better person? Do you feel loved and respected? Your faith family, whether it is a blood relative or the person you sit next to at Mass each week, are the people who will help you when things are tough and share in the joy when things are wonderful. They will want you to be the best person you can be. They want YOU to get to heaven.

These four things are so very important for you as you embark on this journey as a fully initiated Catholic. Discuss and journal how you will fulfill these four needs on the worksheet.

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