

CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF CHEROKEE AND HOLSTEIN

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISH

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CONFIRMATION: GENERAL INFORMATION

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Whom God sent upon the apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the church published The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

In baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed, and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

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CONFIRMATION PROCESS CONFIRMATION OVERVIEW

1. A well-disposed baptized Catholic, who is appropriately prepared, has the opportunity and privilege to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
2. Confirmation is to be conferred upon high school young adults within the Confirmation preparation program.
3. The right of the candidate to postpone Confirmation is to be respected by parents and pastor. The candidate is expected to complete the catechesis preparation in order to be able to make an informed decision as to whether he/she wishes to receive the sacrament.
4. Preparation involves the entire parish community under the leadership of the pastor.
5. The Confirmation process will include catechesis, formation, and mystagogia (continued parish involvement).
6. Each candidate needs a personal sponsor.
7. Confirmation is celebrated within the Eucharistic Liturgy.

8. Preparation includes interviews, retreats, service projects, social activities, etc.
9. Various stages and rites of the preparation are celebrated liturgically.
10. There will be a follow up activities after the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation.

READINESS FOR CONFIRMATION

Readiness for Confirmation as defined by the Diocese of Sioux City includes:

1. An expression on the part of the candidate, in writing, of a desire to receive the sacrament. (Candidates must have decided for themselves, not because of pressure from parents or their peers or their parish, nor because of custom.)
2. An understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation as a commitment on their part to begin to assume fuller responsibilities to their parish and community.
3. Evidence that they are presently living good, holy, Catholic lives of service, practice and love; that they participate in the sacraments of the church and are aware of what they are doing.
4. An ability to recognize the spiritual dimension of their lives.
5. Demonstration of moral integrity and responsibility.
6. Readiness to bear witness to Christ through their Catholic Christian faith, even if this involves some pain or suffering.
7. An ability to explain their own faith in their own words and why they live Catholic lives.
8. A willingness to support the church financially.

Determination of readiness is the responsibility of the candidate, parents, the Confirmation Team, and the pastor.

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RESPONSIBILITIES, ROLE, AND EXPECTATIONS

Candidate

1. Participate in all class sessions.
2. Participate in interviews.
3. Be able to explain their faith in their own words and why they wish to live as Catholic Christians.
4. Participate in service to others in areas of family, church, and community.
5. Attend and participate in all scheduled Confirmation retreats.
6. Be open to learning, growing, and living the faith of the Church.
7. Participate in parish life and the Eucharist including and especially Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

Parent/Guardians

1. to take an active role in the preparation of their son/daughter for the sacrament of Confirmation
2. Participation in the Rite of Acknowledgement with your child at your parish.
3. MODELING the faith to your son/daughter.
4. ENCOURAGING questions, growth, and participation of candidates.
5. PRAYING for the candidates.
6. WORKING WITH your son/daughter in choosing a sponsor.
7. GUIDING your son/daughter in their service projects and parish activities.
8. Encouragement of your child's participation in service to others.
9. Providing a home environment that is conducive to the faith development of the candidate.
10. PARTICIPATING in parish life and the Eucharist including and especially Sunday and Holy Day Masses.

Personal Sponsor

Every candidate must have his or her individual sponsor. The sponsor may be either male or female, regardless of the gender of the candidate. (Parents MAY NOT be sponsors for their own teenager.)

Sponsors are expected to be a positive influence by:

1. Praying for, encouraging, and supporting the candidate and their parents.
2. Helping the candidate reflect, pray, and grow in his/her faith.
3. Participating in scheduled sponsor/candidate sessions.
4. Standing as a witness at the celebration of Confirmation with the candidate.

Sponsors must:

1. Be at least 16 years old.
2. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.
3. And not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.

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PROOF OF BAPTISM

Before anyone can be confirmed, the pastor must have proof of Baptism. If the student was baptized in this parish the record should be here. The Pastor or DRE, will check the parish records to verify the baptism. If the student was baptized in a parish other than this parish, the pastor, DRE, or the parent will need to contact that parish and request that a copy of the record be sent to this parish. It is advisable to allow plenty of time for a request to be processed, since locating a Baptismal certificate can be delayed at times.

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INTERVIEWS

Each candidate may be expected to participate in one or more interviews when required or deemed necessary to help determine current status and readiness for Confirmation. A letter from the candidate to the pastor expressing why the candidate wishes to be confirmed may be required too or take the place of an interview.

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CONFIRMATION NAME

Prior to the celebration of Confirmation each candidate is required to choose a Confirmation Name that will be used on the day of Confirmation. It is this name that will be given to them by the Confirming minister as the candidate is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This name must have Christian dignity and could be any recognized canonized saint of the church or the candidate's baptismal name.

Candidates will be asked to report on the name they have chosen including why they chose the name and, if a saint, a brief biography of the saint.

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rites and rituals

As the candidate moves through the various stages of the preparation process, there will be opportunities for them to be recognized by the parish community. These will be done through liturgical celebrations.

Rite of Confirmation

Celebrated in October with the Bishop on a Sunday to be determined.