

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Welcome!

We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which one is enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It is the Sacrament in which one enters into full membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives us the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. We see this in a practical way when we look back on our own lives and the lives of others, even the lives of saints. Therefore, it is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us in order to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

CONFIRMATION IS:

- The Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The sacrament of the Church's mission which brings the saving presence of Jesus Christ to the world.
- A Sacrament of Mission to the World, which enables the Body of Christ to be active in the world. It is a moment of initiation into the Church, for the purpose of mission to the world. The Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ – particularly through His gifts and fruits – so that we can make Christ present in the world by our prayers, words, and actions.
- The Rite of Confirmation states that this sacrament is a completion of Baptism. The culmination of Christian Initiation is the Eucharist, toward which Confirmation and all of the sacraments are directed.

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS

Children preparing for sacraments should have completed a minimum of two years of Religious Education according with the Diocesan guidelines.

The candidate must be open to receiving the grace of the sacrament. The candidate is asked to prayerfully consider this undertaking, and prepare properly for the reception of Confirmation.

- ❖ Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist
- ❖ Individual seeking Confirmation must present proof of Baptism in the Catholic Church.
(Canon Law 842 – A person who has not received Baptism cannot validly be admitted to the other sacraments.)
- ❖ Candidate **must** be currently enrolled in at least 10th grade, **and** be at least 15 years old.
- ❖ All candidates must be concurrently enrolled in a religious education program during the year in which they prepare for Confirmation

- ❖ All candidates for Confirmation must participate in the Confirmation preparation program. This includes all Catholic school students as well as home-school students.
- ❖ Per Diocesan guidelines, all candidates must participate in a retreat experience as part of their sacramental preparation.
- ❖ Candidates and parents attend an orientation session to help candidates discern their readiness and disposition for sacramental preparation.
- ❖ The Parish conducts separate interviews of both the candidate and his/her parents, which determines whether the candidate should begin the preparation process. It also assesses the candidate's participation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially regular attendance at Sunday Mass/reception of Holy Communion, and basic formation in the Gospel as evidenced through knowledge of the Catholic faith and desire for ongoing conversion.
- ❖ Once confirmed, students attend and participate in a Retreat. Here they will reflect on their journey to Confirmation and look to the future to continue growth in their faith. This is where they will receive their Confirmation Certificate.

*****According to the Christian Formation Handbook for St. Joseph: To receive credit for the class, a student must attend at least 80% of the scheduled classes—excluding excused absences. (Example 23 out of 29 scheduled sessions***

ROLE OF PARENT

Recognizing that “parents are the first and most important educators of their own children” (Pope John Paul II in Letter to Families), parents play a central role in that they reinforce the teachings of the Catholic Church at home. The decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation rests with the candidate, but should be made in consultation with the parents.

CANDIDATE COMMITMENT

**“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”**

- Jeremiah 29:11

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- I will attend and will fully participate in all Confirmation sessions and activities.
- I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort.
- I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me.
- I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.
- I will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.
- I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish, and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others.
- I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope, and love.

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life—plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me. I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

