

St. Patrick's Religious Education
Parent and Student Confirmation Information Night
October 28, 2020



- **Confirmation Date: April 22, 2021; 4:30pm & 7pm**
- **8th grade Confirmation Catechists:**
 - **Judith Barry, Denis Barry, Olivia Barry**
 - **Jen Drapala, Alessandra Rose**

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Note: All forms are also posted on our parish website:

www.stpatricksbedford.org.

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The Sacrament of [Confirmation](#) is a sacrament of anointing by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity; he is the comforter and helper that Jesus promised to send his Apostles, who came to them on the day of Pentecost.

The sacrament of Confirmation is the bestowal of Pentecost into the soul of every baptized Christian, and it is final sacrament of initiation into the Catholic Church. The bishop or priest prays for those being confirmed to receive the Holy Spirit and his Seven Gifts.



During the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop or priest who administers the sacrament lays their hands upon those who are to be confirmed and says:

*"All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of right **judgment** and **courage**, the spirit of **knowledge** and **reverence**. Fill them with the spirit of **wonder** and **awe** in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord."*

This rite marks each person with a spiritual seal. The Seven Gifts that are bestowed "complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them" (CCC 1831). According to the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), "the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost."

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit Explained



The Gift of Wisdom is our ability to value spiritual things over worldly ones. It enables us to desire the things of God and correctly order the things in our life. This gift helps us view the world through God's perspective and the light of our faith. It instills a desire to contemplate the things of God.



The Gift of Understanding helps us grasp the truths of the faith more easily and profoundly. Our human intellect cannot grasp all of God's mysteries, but through the gift of understanding we can be led to truth, even when we do not fully comprehend. This gift strengthens our insight through prayer, scripture, and the sacraments.



The Gift of Right Judgment/Counsel acknowledges the difference between right and wrong and bestows proper judgment. A person with right judgment avoids sin and leads a life for Christ. Counsel inspires us to speak up and encourage others to do the correct thing. It bestows upon us prudence, allowing us to act promptly and rightly in the face of difficult situations.



The Gift of Courage/Fortitude sustains our decision to follow the will of God in any situation. It allows us to stand up and defend our faith, even when threatened by bodily injury or death. This gift allows us to be steadfast in our decisions to do well and to endure evil even when we do not want to.



The Gift of Knowledge is awareness of God's plan. It is not simply an accumulation of facts, but rather an understanding of God's purpose and how we ought to respond. Knowledge helps bring to light the temptations that we face, and to discern whether to give in or live a life worthy of God's approval.



The Gift of Piety or reverence is our obedience to God and our willingness to serve him. It is not just obedience through a sense of duty or obligation, but rather obedience out of love and devotion. It facilitates a deeper respect and honor for God and His Church.



The Gift of Wonder and Awe/Fear of the Lord makes us aware of the glory and majesty of God. This gift is also synonymous with the "Fear of the Lord", in which we dread sin and fear offending God. We fear displeasing God and losing our connection with him because of our love for Him. Wonder and awe increases our desire to draw closer to God and depart from sin.

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

Q: Do you have to be a practicing Catholic—meaning, attending Mass on a regular basis and receiving Holy Communion—to be a sponsor to a child receiving the sacrament of Confirmation?

A: People are often unclear about the requirements for sponsorship in general, so let's take a moment to look over them. The *Code of Canon Law* states that the requirements for being a sponsor at confirmation are the same as those of being a sponsor at baptism (CIC 893 §1). The requirements for being a sponsor at baptism are as follows:

"Canon 874—§1. To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

"1^o be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role;

"2^o have completed the sixteenth year, unless a different age has been established by the diocesan bishop or it seems to the pastor or minister that an exception is to be made for a just cause;

"3^o be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;

"4^o not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

"5^o not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized.

"§2. A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor."

The Code also notes, "It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for confirmation" (CIC 893 §2).

The requirement that applies to the questions of regular Mass attendance and reception of Communion is in 874 §1, 3^o where it states that the person "leads a life in harmony with the faith."

Since Catholics are only bound to receive Communion once a year, normally during the Easter season (CIC 920), unless a person has been leaving this precept deliberately unfulfilled he would not seem to be living a life out of harmony with the faith and would not be disqualified on that ground. (Bottom line: *Regularly* receiving Communion for purposes of this requirement would mean *annually* receiving Communion.)

On the other hand, Catholics normally are bound to attend Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation (CIC 1247). If a person has been leaving this precept deliberately unfulfilled then he would seem to be living a life out of harmony with the faith and would seem to be disqualified.

Note, however, the including of the word *deliberately* in both of the above. Many people are poorly catechized and do not realize the existence nor seriousness of these two precepts. In such cases the failure to fulfill the precepts would be inadvertent and it would be more difficult to say that the person is living a life sufficiently out of harmony with the faith to be barred from serving as a sponsor.

Bishop Walsh will be confirming your child on April 22nd

The Most Reverend Gerald T. Walsh



The Most Rev. Gerald T. Walsh was born on April 25, 1942 in New York City. He attended Good Shepherd Elementary School in New York City, St. Charles High School in Baltimore, and graduated in the Class of 1959 from Power Memorial Academy, New York City.

Bishop Walsh attended Iona College in New Rochelle in 1959, and in 1961 entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. In 1963, he earned a BA in Philosophy and a Masters of Divinity from St. Joseph's Seminary in 1967.

During the summers of 1966 and 1967, he studied at the Institute for Intercultural Communication at the Catholic University in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

On May 27, 1967, Francis Cardinal Spellman ordained him to the priesthood at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Following his ordination, Bishop Walsh was assigned as Parochial Vicar of Holy Trinity Church in New York City. He held several part-time assignments with the Cathedral Preparatory Seminary, the Ladies of Charity, and the New York Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. In 1980, he joined the staff of Catholic Charities as the Director of Family and Children's Services. Bishop Walsh received a master's degree in social work from Fordham University in 1983.

In 1989, Bishop Walsh was named Pastor of the Church of the Incarnation. He is presently a member of the Priest Council as well as the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese of New York.

In 1990, Bishop Walsh was named a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness and in 1996, John Cardinal O'Connor appointed him to serve as Secretary to the Cardinal. He was named Pastor of the Church of St. Elizabeth in 1998 and Regional Vicar of North Manhattan.

Bishop Walsh was appointed Vicar for Development at the Archdiocese of New York in November 2003, and on September 21, 2004, he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York and appointed Titular Bishop of Altiburus. He was named rector of his alma mater of St. Joseph's Seminary in 2007.

Effective July 15, 2012, Bishop Walsh was named Vicar for Clergy and Episcopal Vicar for Rockland, Central Westchester, South Shore, and Yonkers vicariates.

Beginning in 1979 until present, Bishop Walsh had served and continues to serve as a Board member to a diverse number of Catholic and community agencies.

St. Patrick's Religious Education

Important Dates for Confirmation 2020-21

November 11 th	Confirmation Retreat 9am-12pm for students. Archdiocese mandated. Virtual.
November 17 th	Letter to Msgr. Ferry requesting the sacrament of Confirmation. Please email this letter to your child's catechist.
December 3 rd	Confirmation name selection form due. Please return to the Religious Education Office.
December 3 rd	Saint report due. <u>This report needs to be done on the saint that your child will be selecting as a Confirmation name.</u> Please email to your child's catechist.
December 10 th	My Confirmation sponsor form due. Please return to the Religious Education Office.
January	You will be receiving a form for the robe size needed along with an invoice for the Confirmation fee which includes the robe, stole, retreat and certificate.
February 15 th	Sacramental Sponsor Certificate due. Please return to the Religious Education Office.
March 30 th	8 hours of community service to be completed.
April 20 th	Confirmation practice 5-6 pm & 6-7pm at church.
April 22 nd	Confirmation, Ceremonies at 4:30pm and 7pm, at church.
Mass assignments: Last names: A-L, 4:30pm. M-Z, 7pm.	

Congratulations!



St. Patrick's Parish
Bedford, NY 10506

Requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation

If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you must write a letter of request to our Pastor, Msgr. John Ferry, stating your desire. Please follow these guidelines and **return your typed (not handwritten) letter to your catechist via email no later than TUESDAY, November 17th.**

I. Greeting

- Begin your letter with the greeting: Dear Monsignor Ferry

II. Body of the Letter

◆ Paragraph 1:

- Introduce yourself.
- Tell something about your family, your background.

◆ Paragraph 2:

- Request the sacrament.
- Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

◆ Paragraph 3:

- Explain how you are preparing for the sacrament.
- It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service for others exercised within the parish and the community that you live in, etc.

◆ Paragraph 4:

- Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit.
- Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

III. Conclusion

- Conclude the letter and include your name.

*St. Patrick's Church Religious Education
PO Box 480
Bedford, NY 10506*

CONFIRMATION NAME SELECTION

Your name gives you an identity.

Now that you are about to be Confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in faith. Since Confirmation is an extension of Baptism you may wish to reaffirm your Baptismal commitment by using your Baptismal name (if that of a saint). Otherwise, you could take the name of a person whom you admire – a person who gives (or gave) witness to Christ's love in the world. The only limit that is placed on your choice is that it must be a saint's name (or a variation of that name).

Date: _____

PRINT YOUR FULL NAME (including middle name)
(As it appears on Baptismal Certificate)

PRINT YOUR CHOSEN SAINT NAME:

Student's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

**The Saint name you select is the Saint that you
will be writing a report on.**

This form is due by **Thursday, December 3rd**. Please return to the Religious Education Office or mail to the address above. Thank you!

Saint Report Assignment Checklist

Name of Student _____ Name of Saint _____

Date Due: Thursday 12/3/20, Please email this report to your child's Catechist. Thank you! Please use the guidelines below.

Question to be answered			
What is a Saint?			
How is the Saint like you in personality?			
What three reasons influenced you to choose this name?			
What is he/she the Patron Saint of?			
What is the Saint's birth date and place of birth?			
What is the Saint's date of death? Where did he/she die?			
What is the Saint's feast date?			
What obstacle/difficulty did your Saint overcome?			
What does your Saint love?			
What most surprised you about your Saint?			
What symbols are most associated with your Saint and what do these symbols represent?			
What beatitudes did your Saint represent and put into action most clearly?			
How/When did the person become a Saint?			
In what three ways can you be more like your Saint?			
Is your paper at least one page typed?			



St. Patrick's Religious Education
PO Box 480
Bedford, New York 10506

MY CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

MY NAME IS _____

After prayerful consideration I have asked _____ to be my sponsor

(print first and last name)

His/her address is: _____

(mailing address)

(city)

(state)

(zip)

His/her telephone number is: _____

(area code and number)

My sponsor was Confirmed in the Parish of _____

located at _____

(print name of parish)

(print city, state, and zip code)

I have asked this person to be my sponsor because:

2020 Due Date: No later than Thursday, December 10th

Please return this form to the Religious Education office at the address above. Thank you!

