

# Confirmation 2020 Introduction – Church of the Resurrection

Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, community, 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 gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witness 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 lives and the lives of others, even the lives of the 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.

## **Who may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

### **Confirmation Candidates:**

- High School aged
- Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, and Eucharist
- Are practicing their faith
- Are in a state of Grace
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of a member of the Catholic Church
- Are aware of the initiation aspects of the Sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their faith.
- **Have a sincere desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation** as well as the appreciation of sacramental life.

## **Confirmation Candidate Expectations – at a glance**

- Participate in weekly Mass.
- Participate in Faith Formation Sunday nights or attends a Catholic High School.
- Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with them.
- Participate in the weekend Search Retreat (Jan 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>) and the one day Confirmation Retreat (March 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Attend all preparation sessions.

## **Expectations in Detail**

The following explains each of the Confirmation expectations in detail and in some cases, the reasons the requirements are important to the formation of the candidate. Please remember that while in many cases we list a minimum requirement for Confirmation, the candidates should be encouraged to make many of these activities a regular part of their religious practices.

### **Participating in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week**

The Confirmation Candidate and his or her parents (along with the rest of the family) must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass each week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. This is also an important way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place of the faith they are handing over to their children. Worshiping as a community, we build up the Body of Christ.

### **Participating in Confirmation Preparation Sessions**

Attendance at the Confirmation sessions is extremely important in preparing the candidates for the reception of the sacrament. When a session is missed, the candidate loses time in relationship with the group and prayer as well as the material covered that day. We expect that you will make these gatherings a priority and therefore make a sincere effort to adjust your other obligations accordingly.

### **Choose a qualified Sponsor and meet with them regularly**

The Confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role-model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey and will vouch for your readiness to receive the sacrament and they should already be a person in their life they have a relationship with.

### **The Sponsor:**

- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly and living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Supports the candidate to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- Must be at least 16yrs old and fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- Will provide a letter from their parish verifying they are capable of serving in that role if they are not an active parishioner at Church of the Resurrection or Church of the Assumption.
- May not be a parent of the candidate
- Will assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- Presents the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

The candidate's Godparent would be a preferred choice (but not required) as this most fully expresses the integral connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

### **Participate in the High School Search Retreat and the Confirmation Day Retreat**

Retreats provide a unique opportunity for candidates to spend an extended time in discernment and reflect on the gifts of the Spirit as well as to reflect on their relationship with God and their faith life. It is, therefore, included as part of the preparation process to attend our High School Search Retreat.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Parents**

*"As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in that catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children" (NCD, no. 119)*

#### **Because parents:**

Are the primary educators of their children

Are responsible for initiating their children into sacramental life

Serve as models for their children by being committed Christians

#### **Parents should expect to:**

- Worship with your family regularly
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate
- Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective
- Pray for your child's spiritual growth every day
- Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations
- Emphasize the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation
- Faithfully bring your teen (and when necessary yourself) to meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help your child prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation