

Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidates,

What an exciting year this will be for you and your family! In a few short months, your child/children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation! Fr. Zlock, Jason, and Meghan look forward to sharing in your child's Confirmation Day.

Please carefully review these instructions before completing the forms and cover page of the Confirmation packet:

It is important to request the sponsor's Letter or Certificate of Eligibility right away.

The chosen sponsor should request this of his or her own pastor. Without this letter or certificate, the chosen sponsor cannot serve as the candidate's sponsor. By beginning this process now, if, for any reason a chosen sponsor is not permitted to serve as a sponsor, there is sufficient time to choose a new sponsor and obtain the required letter/certificate.

Love Letters for the candidate from the sponsor, parents, and other family members are very much encouraged. Letters can be dropped off at the rectory before the retreat(date t.b.a.).

Sincerely,

Jason Carter and Meghan Nulty

The Office of Discipleship and Formation

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament of our initiation which began in Baptism and continues in the Eucharist. As the candidates come forward to be confirmed, they profess their faith in the Catholic Church. The candidate personally takes on the responsibility for continuing their own religious journey by regularly participating in Sunday Mass, by continuing their spiritual formation within the Church community, by serving others' needs, and by spreading and defending the faith in word and deed.

The period of Confirmation preparation builds on the candidate's faith foundation, encourages community building, and helps the candidate to make good life decisions.

Sponsors

The sponsor's role is to help the candidate fulfill the baptismal promises made at the time of Baptism. He or she has the responsibility to set a good, Catholic example. The godparent, who initially accepted this responsibility, is the ideal choice as a sponsor. The sponsor is expected to be present in the candidate's life. One of the primary roles of the sponsor is to answer questions that the candidate might have and to help the candidate explore our Catholic faith through the sponsor's own faith experiences.

***The sponsor must have a letter of eligibility from his/her pastor.**

Criteria for Sponsors

A person who is practicing faith-filled Roman Catholic adult.

A person who is able to relate in friendship to a teenager and is a good listener.

A person who is willing to share his or her own experience of faith.

Sponsors must be fully initiated Catholics, that is, they must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. Preferably, the baptismal sponsor should be the Confirmation sponsor whenever possible.

A sponsor must be at least sixteen years old.

N.B. Parents may not be sponsors for their sons and daughters.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

For Confirmation, the candidate may keep his/her baptismal name to complete the baptismal grace. A new name may also be chosen in honor or inspiration of a saint.

“Conversation” with Father Zlock

Father Zlock plans to meet with candidates in small groups. More information and the scheduling of the Confirmation Conversation will come soon!

Confirmation Retreat Day – For candidates only

The Confirmation Retreat will be held at the Malvern Retreat House from 8:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. More details will be forthcoming as the date approaches.

The Retreat will consist of attendance at Mass, various activities, reflection time, a prayer service, (Sponsors do not attend) lunch will be provided. Attendance at Retreat Day activities is considered an excused absence for public school students if the Release Letter to Superintendent is received, please write in your name, address, date and signature and submit it in the google form. The Office of Discipleship and Formation will deliver the letters together directly to the Superintendent’s office in advance of the retreat. Parents of students in the local catholic schools and academies are responsible to inform your school principal of your child’s participation at his or her retreat.

Sacrament Fee

The Confirmation fee is \$75.00. The fee helps to cover the cost of:

The Confirmation robe

Classroom materials

Certificates

Retreat Day facilities, materials, lunch and snacks

Gift to the bishop, etc.

Works of Mercy (Service Hours)

Each Confirmation candidate is strongly encouraged to perform Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (Service) in the parish and/or community in response to our call to service as Catholics. Service opportunities will be made available throughout the year for Confirmation students

“A Letter To My Saint”

Candidates are asked to complete a one page “letter” to the saint whose name they have chosen. Saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates are encouraged to choose a saint’s name as the Confirmation name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that the person led. The chosen name for Confirmation is the same name to which the candidate writes their letter.

Requirements for Saint Letter:

Cover of Letter: Includes name of Saint, Feast Day of Saint, and candidate’s name

Letter about saint should include:

Why did you choose him/her?

Virtues practiced by saint

Candidate’s reason for choosing this saint

Characteristics of saint that inspire the candidate

How would you like this saint to intercede (pray) for you?

Letter to Father Zlock

Introduce yourself and tell Fr. Zlock about your family, yourself, and your interests.

What is your Confirmation name? Why did you choose this name?

Who is your sponsor? Why did you choose your sponsor? Why do you think your sponsor is worthy to help you before and after you receive the sacrament of Confirmation?

Which gift of the Holy Spirit is most helpful to you at this time?

How do you plan to remain involved with the church after Confirmation?

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Instructions - Letter for Retreat Day.

****Please give/forward to your child's Sponsor****

Dear Sponsor,

The Confirmation candidates of St. Monica Parish will gather to celebrate the Holy Spirit in their lives at their retreat.

Among the day's various activities, the candidates will reflect on the love and support of those they know. We would like to surprise each candidate with a "love letter" of encouragement from you, their sponsor. As their sponsor, you are a model and inspiration to the child who has chosen you as the sponsor. Your message, if written from the heart, can have a great impact on the life of the candidate.

Here are a few topic suggestions for your letter:

Your pride in the candidate for his/her preparation for Confirmation – the extra study effort, their service, and attention to prayer.

How special/unique the candidate is and why. How he/she has brought love and joy to the family and others.

Encourage the candidate to come to you in times of pain, discouragement, failure. Speak about these times in your own life.

Encourage the candidate to always strive to grow in his/her relationship with God and to live a moral, responsible life as a fully initiated Catholic.

Describe how the Holy Spirit has touched *your* life.

Please place your letter in a sealed envelope marked with the candidate's ***first and last name***. Letters from parents and siblings and others close to the candidate are welcome and strongly encouraged. (All letters can be sealed together in a larger envelope). **PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE LEFT HAND CORNER OF THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING YOUR "LOVE LETTER."**

Thank you for your assistance in making your candidate's Retreat Day both a spiritual and memorable experience.

Sincerely,

Jason Carter and Meghan Nulty

Sponsor's Responsibilities - (Please give/forward to your child's Sponsor).

Regularly communicate with your candidate throughout the entire process.

Commit yourself to daily prayer for your candidate.

Meet privately with and help your candidate on his or her faith journey.

Be willing to contact a member of the Confirmation team if you have any questions or concerns.

Write a brief letter to your candidate which outlines your candidate's talents or gifts. This letter should also pledge your continued prayer and support.

Join with the parish and your candidate in celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation.

Continue as support to the newly confirmed person as he or she discovers more and more about the treasury of his or her own faith along the way.