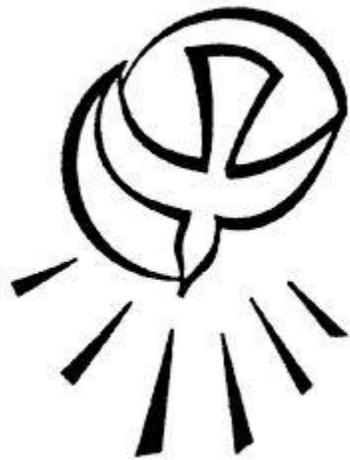




CONFIRMATION



Candidate Information

2020

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacramental outpouring of the Holy Spirit that leaves a permanent imprint on the soul, completes Christian initiation, and empowers us to be witnesses to Christ (CCC 1302-05)

Many people mistakenly see Confirmation as a teen's graduation from religious education, as merely a cultural passage into maturity, or as an opportunity to choose whether or not to remain Catholic. None of these views is consistent with the teaching of the church on this powerful sacrament. Confirmation is not merely a symbolic ceremony or a rite of passage. While it is true that a candidate chooses whether to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and, with the reception of the sacrament, takes a step toward maturity, none of these facts captures the heart of the meaning of the sacrament of Confirmation.

What happens at Confirmation?

As with every sacrament, Confirmation does not merely symbolize a spiritual reality – it actually affects what it signifies. In Confirmation, our senses are fully engaged, we see the bishop's hand raised in the anointing. The candidate feels and smells the chrism, or sacramental oil, and hears the bishop proclaim, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

What we physically see, hear, feel and smell at Confirmation is an anointing, a sealing with the Holy Spirit. These visible elements associated with the sacrament are not merely symbolic, they simultaneously bring about a permanent change to those receiving the sacrament.

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles as they prayed together at Pentecost, the effects of this miracle were immediately apparent. Emboldened by the workings of the Spirit, the overjoyed apostles couldn't stop talking about Jesus. They proclaimed their faith fearlessly. The sacramental presence of the Holy Spirit in their souls emboldened them to speak the truth.

Confirmation empowers us with the very same Holy Spirit. Working through what is visible and sensory, the same Holy Spirit who was poured out on the apostles at Pentecost makes a home in each Confirmation candidate's soul. The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five effects of this outpouring:

- Affirms our identity as children of God
- Unites us more firmly to Christ
- Increases in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Strengthens our bond with the church
- Strengthens us to spread and defend the faith by our words and actions, to be fearless witnesses to Christ and the power of the cross.

What is the relationship between Confirmation and Baptism?

Confirmation completes and adds to the graces we received at baptism, when we became adopted sons and daughters of God. Confirmation confirms that we are part of God's family and leads us to focus on what we have been called to do as children of God: to be living witnesses of God's love in the world.

In Confirmation, we receive the power to make a stand for Christ and his Church, as well as special gifts to help us serve God and the church. Through the sacraments, we are also "sealed" for God; our bond with him, as well as with the whole family of God, is strengthened. All these graces help us to shift our focus from interior formation to exterior proclamation, giving us courage to witness to the faith in our words and actions.

Confirmation is sometimes called "the sacrament of the martyrs" because the word martyr derived from the Greek word meaning "witness." They witnessed for the truth of the gospel – no matter what the cost.

Confirmation Information - IMPORTANT!

Sponsor Information Form (in sponsor packet) – **please turn in on or before the March 15 Sponsor meeting.**

Confirmation name – You should be able to explain the reasoning behind your choice. What is significant about the saint you chose? The Bishop will likely ask you about this.

****SPONSOR SHOULD ATTEND**** **Mass of Enrollment and Lunch Meeting** - Candidate/Sponsor/Parent Session: **Sunday, March 15th**. 11:00am Mass followed by a meeting over lunch in St. Cecilia Hall.

Letter of Intent to the Bishop – **Please have this completed on or before the March 15th Sponsor Meeting.**

Confirmation interviews – Sign-up will be available at the March 15th meeting

Confirmation rehearsal – **WEDNESDAY, May 13 @ 7:00PM in the church**

All candidates and sponsors, or proxies, are required to attend the rehearsal. If a candidate is absolutely unable to attend, a parent must attend and his or her stead

Confirmation celebration – **THURSDAY, May 14 at 7:00pm in the church**

All candidates and their sponsors must be seated in church by 6:45pm – a seating chart will be assigned at the rehearsal the night before, and cards will hold their places in the pews. Mass begins at 7:00pm and a reception will be held in St. Cecilia Hall after mass

Service Learning Component Worksheet: Attached in this packet. Due on or before May 1st.

What to do after confirmation– Stay grounded in your faith! The newly confirmed are encouraged to live their faith actively:

- Be a Senior Peer Leader! – Make the program greater by co-leading a small group as a Senior
- Attend a weekday Mass – these Masses are usually 45 minutes or less and are a great way to start the day!
- Visit another a parish of another culture for Mass (Church of the Great Spirit or All Saints in Milwaukee)
- Visit Holy Hill: a good place for Confession, praying the stations, quiet meditation, and attending Mass)
- Take a trip as a family to the Marion Shrine in Champion, WI. Stop for lunch in Green Bay on the way home!
- Purchase and read a spiritual book, or borrow one from Catholic Formation (There are excellent spiritual reading books at the Marian Center in Milwaukee, for sale at Holy Hill, or online. Contact Fr. Dan or the Catholic Formation department for suggestions)
- Pray the Rosary (as a family or alone – hint: road trips are great excuses to pray rosary together... the kids aren't going anywhere)
- Spend a whole day in reflection – turn off the TV and media and plan activities that foster silence (a long walk or bike ride, for example). Journal, read a spiritual book, reflect on God.
- Make a Holy Hour; Adoration
- Practice a Corporal or Spiritual work of Mercy
- Volunteer: Contact Amy Kroll for local service opportunities (262-512-8989)

One important part of the Confirmation process is the letter of intent, written by the candidate to the Confirming Bishop. This year, the students will be confirmed by **Bishop James Schuerman**. These letters will express a candidate's desire to be confirmed and contain a statement about his/her faith growth as well as a description of service endeavors and how that service has affected his/her life. Letters will be as unique as each individual candidate but should follow some basic formatting guidelines:

Date

Greeting: **Dear Bishop Schuerman,**

Personal Background: Include important information about you—where you are attending school, what you like to do in your free time, what you are good at, what kinds of things are important to you, etc.

Main Section: Without exception, include your thoughts on why you want to be confirmed as a Roman Catholic. Indicate to the Bishop that you WANT to receive the sacrament of confirmation. **Also, include why you chose your saint name** and some thoughts on two or more of the following:

- How you plan to live out your faith in the future
- Some personal experiences you have had that have strengthened or challenged your faith
- Reflections on your personal spirituality
- What Jesus/God has meant in your life
- What service you have done in preparation for Confirmation

Conclusion: Make some concluding remarks that wrap up the letter, such as *"Thank you for your time and attention in reading my letter"* or *"I look forward to meeting you at Confirmation."*

Signature: Use *"Sincerely"* or *"In Christ"* or *"Thank You"* or another appropriate ending **followed by your signature.** Under your signature, print your name. Under your name, print your address, including zip code.

For example: *Sincerely,*

Signature
Printed Name
Address

Length: One to two pages, typed, single-spaced. 12-point font, 1-inch margins.

Spelling: Please don't rely only on your spell check to catch spelling errors. *Ask your mom or dad to proofread your letter.* Any sloppy or inappropriate letters will need to be re-written. All letters will be read by the pastors, Director of Catholic Formation, youth minister, and the Confirming Bishop. **Bishop Schuerman** will look over every letter carefully and will expect you to follow instructions precisely. *Sign the letter, type your name under your signature and type your address including city, state and zip code under your name.*

Letters are due March 15th. PLEASE DO NOT FOLD YOUR LETTER – all letters are mailed to the Bishop in one large envelope. Thank you!



2020 Confirmation Sponsor Certification

Please

- Fill out the top portion of this form.
- Carefully read the affirmations.
- Have your parish priest witness your signature and sign his (*please note: if you are a member of Lumen Christi Parish, you may return this form unsigned/unsealed*).
- **Return this form to Lumen Christi Catholic Formation at address below by Sunday, March 15, 2020.**

CONFIRMATION DATE IS THURSDAY, MAY 14 AT 7:00PM

Name of the Candidate to be Confirmed Lumen Christi _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Sponsor Email: _____

Sponsor Phone: _____

Sponsor: I am a registered and participating member of _____ Catholic Church

In (city) _____ (state) _____

I affirm that:

- **I have received the 3 Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.**
- **I regularly participate in the Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ.**
- **I will support the person I am sponsoring through prayer and by offering guidance during this time of preparation.**

Sponsor _____

(signature required)

Parish Priest or Administrator _____

(signature required)

Parish _____

(Apply Parish Seal Below)

**Sponsor or candidate: Please return this form by
Sunday, March 15th.**

Lumen Christi Catholic Formation
Attn: Karen Bersch
2750 W. Mequon Road
Mequon, WI 53092

