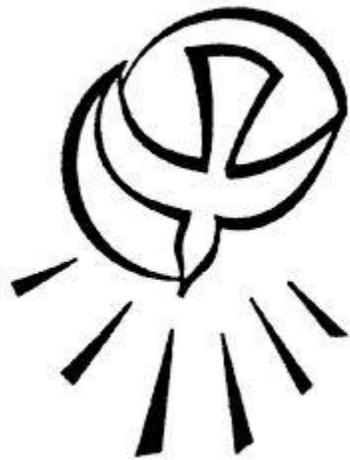




# CONFIRMATION



**Candidate Information**

2021



## 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 are 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 capture 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 gifts 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" by 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.

## 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 high school small group.
  - Attend a weekday Mass – these Masses are usually 45 minutes or less and are a great way to start the day.
  - Visit 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 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 resources library or our parish library. There are excellent spiritual reading books at Holy Hill, or online.
  - Make a FORMED account at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) to gain access to Catholic videos, book/Bible studies, movies, and more! Type in the zip code, 53092 and select Lumen Christi Parish to make your own free account.
  - Pray the Rosary as a family or alone.
  - Spend a whole day in reflection – turn off the TV and media and plan activities that foster silence like a long walk or bike ride. Journal, read a spiritual book, reflect on God.
  - Make a Holy Hour; Adoration (Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:15pm)
  - Practice a Corporal or Spiritual work of Mercy
  - Volunteer: Contact Amy Kroll for local service opportunities (262-512-8989)
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# Confirmation Information - IMPORTANT!

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

**Confirmation Saint Name Form** – Please provide the name of the Saint you are choosing for your Confirmation name and the reasoning behind your choice. What is significant about the saint you chose? The Bishop will likely ask you about this. **Please turn in on or before the March 15.**

***\*SPONSOR SHOULD ATTEND\**** **Mass of Enrollment and Lunch Meeting** - Candidate/Sponsor Session: **Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. 11:00am Mass followed by a meeting over lunch (if permitted with COVID) in St. Cecilia Hall.

**Letter of Intent to the Bishop** – **Please have this completed and turned in on or before the March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Confirmation interviews** – Our second interviews are 30 minutes long. Sign-up will be available mid-March.

**Confirmation rehearsal** – **THURSDAY, May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM 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 in their place.

**Confirmation celebration** – **SATURDAY, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM in the church**

All candidates and their sponsors must be seated in church by 9:45am – a seating chart will be assigned at the rehearsal the night and cards will hold their places in the pews. Mass begins at 10 AM. If allowed, a reception will be held in St. Cecilia Hall after Mass.

**Service or Alternative Service Learning Component Worksheet:** Attached in this packet. Due on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 Jeffrey Haines.**

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:

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**Date**

**Greeting:** *Dear Bishop Haines,*

**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, your hobbies, 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.** *Sign the letter, type your name under your signature and type your address including city, state and zip code under your name.*

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 someone to proofread your letter.* Any letters that do not fulfill the requirements will need to be re-written. All letters will be read by the Priests, Youth Minister, and the Confirming Bishop. **Bishop Haines** will look over every letter carefully and will expect you to follow instructions precisely.

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





## 2021 Confirmation Sponsor Certification

- Fill out the top portion of this form.
- Carefully read the affirmations.
- **If you are a member of Lumen Christi Parish, please return this form unsigned/unsealed. If you are a member of a differing parish, please have your parish priest witness your signature and sign his.**
- Return this form to Lumen Christi Catholic Formation at address below by Monday, March 15, 2021.

**CONFIRMATION DATE IS SATURDAY, MAY 8TH AT 10:00 AM**

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  
Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Lumen Christi Catholic Formation**

Attn: Karen Bersch

2750 W. Mequon Road

Mequon, WI 53092



# Confirmation Name

Our name is a powerful symbol of who we are. One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is to choose a name that will remind you of this special sacrament throughout your faith journey. At Confirmation, the Bishop addresses you by name to show you are important and that the gift of faith is offered to you as an individual person.

At the time of confirmation, the Holy Spirit descends on the person and bestows spiritual gifts. Roman Catholics going through confirmation choose a saint they feel an affinity for as their confirmation name. The patron saint then serves as their guide and protector. After confirmation the confirmed can pray to the saint for guidance and protection.

The common advice for those trying to decide on a name is to research saint names and find one that fits their personality or spiritual goals. Those seeking confirmation are also encouraged to pray and seek a saint that is willing to guide them as they seek a closer relationship with God.

- You may choose to keep your baptismal name, signifying that you are confirming the faith that was given to you at Baptism.
- You may choose to add a name to signify your new and deeper awareness of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
  - If you add a new name, it should be a Christian name (the name of a saint or one of the great men or women of the Bible) that belongs to a person you admire and sets an example of faith that you want to imitate. Prayer, reflection, and research will help you choose a Confirmation Name.

See below for resources to help you discern your Confirmation name.

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## Learning about the Saints

Websites Catholic Online: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

American Catholic: <http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname.aspx>

CCTNtv Discovering Our Saints: short videos on lives of individual saints:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDDDABC497B5B4E93>

Lifeteen: List of Confirmation Names for guys or girls:

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

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# Confirmation Name Form

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Name chosen: \_\_\_\_\_

I have chosen this name because: (Please share a little about the Saint your chose, why you relate to this name, and/or how you feel they can guide you in your faith)

**Turn in form by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

