

**Parent/Teen Confirmation Material
2020-2021**



St. Isidore Catholic Community
Sacred Heart & Visitation Parishes

641-732-3428

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Fr. Raymond Burkle, Pastor



*God has revealed to us
through the Spirit.*

1 Cor 2:10

Confirmation Prayer

*God, our father, we ask you to bless all candidates
who are now preparing to receive the spirit of your
love in the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

*May the gifts within each one be touched by your Holy Spirit
and become blessings for our parish family.*

*Bless, too, our parents, our sponsors, our teachers
and Catechists, and all those who have been the
reflection of your son's love for us. This we
ask you through Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

Confirmation Calendar 2020-2021

Mass Worksheets	September 20-April 25
Enrollment for Confirmation	Due by October 16
Parent Letter to Pastor	Due by October 23
Sponsor Information Form	Due by November 6
Saint Report	Due by January 29
Candidate/Sponsor Recognition Mass at 12:00 pm Sacred Heart Church <i>Followed by a Candidate/Sponsor only class after 12:00pm Mass in Sacred Heart Parish Hall (Lunch will be provided)</i>	February 7, 2021
Candidate Letter to Pastor	Due by February 12
Candidate Class- <i>after 8:30am Mass in Visitation Church Basement</i>	March 7, 2021
Interviews with Fr. Burkle: Visitation Sacred Heart	???? ????
Candidate/Sponsor Retreat	????
Celebration of Confirmation <i>Arrive one hour early for pictures and practice</i>	April 17, 2021 5:15pm Mass Sacred Heart Church Osage, IA

September 2020

Dear Parents,

The preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation began many years ago in Baptism and in the faith formation in our home and parish. Confirmation continues the promise made by you at Baptism for your son or daughter to "make it your constant care to bring up your child in the practice of faith". It will now be your child's decision to be sealed in the Spirit and live out the commitment of faith, witness and service in the Church.

You are asked to guide your child in this time of preparation and transition. This can be done through your support and cooperation with the parish Confirmation preparation program.

This year, all the forms need to be sent back to the Sacred Heart Faith Formation Center, 218 S. 12th Street, Osage, IA 50461 or dropped off during business hours, 8-4, M-F, at the Sacred Heart Church office.

We are happy to work with you on this step of your child's journey of faith.

Sincerely,

Tammy Lamb
Coordinator of Faith Formation/Confirmation
641-732-3428



Introduction to the Confirmation Process (for Parents and Sponsors)

Let 's review the meaning of confirmation ...

The meaning of this sacrament has remained clear over centuries: confirmation gives the Holy Spirit. While the Spirit is given in a unique way, it is not given for the first time; that occurred in baptism. Candidates for confirmation have lived in the faith and promises of the church for many years. But a different context does not invalidate the first baptismal promises. In the same way, a couple who repeats their marriage vows after twenty-five years knows that the context has changed dramatically. But the new context doesn't invalidate the original vows - if anything, the weight of time and experience makes them more meaningful. Similarly, a couple who fall in love initially find that the qualities they've always had are called forth in a new way for parenthood. Thus, the Spirit who is always present continues to make us more like Christ, strengthening us to continue his work .

How have ideas about confirmation changed over time?

Only from the eleventh century onwards was confirmation separated from baptism. Celebrating the two together showed the link between Jesus' own baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his mission. Today, when adults and children of catechetical age are initiated into the Catholic Church, baptism and confirmation are still celebrated together.

In the early church, the bishop-imposed hands on and anointed the newly baptized as part of the baptism rite. As Christianity spread, it became difficult for the bishop to anoint numerous converts. This part of the rite was deferred to later time when the bishop could visit the parish. Gradually, the anointing took on the "confirmation," and the candidates, rather than being the newly baptized, were people who had been baptized years before.

To summarize a long subsequent history, the "soldier-of-Christ model" prevailed when many who are now parents were confirmed themselves. Emphasis was placed on maturity; through the sacrament, children became "soldiers of Christ" who would defend the faith.

Today, less emphasis is placed on maturity, since the gift of the Spirit is an abundance that not even the most mature person could ever deserve. We see that God's action, not ours, takes primacy. We celebrate the Spirit active in the lives of all people. Rather than a "graduation," confirmation is a part of ongoing conversion within a community of faith. Our young people join with us as we all grow together in grace, a life-long process.

What is a parent's or sponsor 's role?

Consider that you have gained an apprentice. In the traditional sense of that word, the apprentice learned a trade from a master. What you are conveying instead is the way you live as a Christian. That doesn't mean perfection or phony piety. It simply means welcoming a young person into your struggles and joys, your daily drudgery and moments of grace. What gets you through the day, How does looking at your life through the lens of faith make a difference? Why is your involvement with church so important that you'd sacrifice time to make this commitment?

The answers to those three questions may not come in words. But young people are attuned to non verbals: the ways we tease them, enjoy them, nurture them and challenge them all speak loudly. They'll pick up the message more from who you are than from anything you do or say.

Adolescence is by definition is a time of transition, a time filled with much excitement and wonder but also with many stumbling blocks. Most adolescents are also in the midst of a faith transition, moving out of the passive, receptive faith of childhood into the active, personally committed faith of adulthood .

Early Adolescence (ages 13-15) is a time of peer-orientation and self-doubt. It is also the beginning of independent thinking and introspection. Though at times teens at this age may seem unresponsive to adult direction and uninterested in exploring topics of faith, they are likely to be in the process of developing an entirely new spiritual outlook. They are forming and sometimes asking life's deeper questions.

Remember, they are also good observers. They will be very aware of your demeanor, actions, availability, personal prayer life, and relationships with others. Especially for teens this age, actions speak louder than words.

For Sponsors in particular ... To counter the instability of adolescence it will be important for you to determine a consistent pattern of communication. You might agree upon a regular schedule and format of interactions-personal visits, phone calls, e- mail, snail mail, etc. Frequency is not as important as reliability. Be available and stay in touch about things happening in your lives.

Thanks for coming along with them on the adventure. Your commitment tells a young person: "We value you. We want you to be a part of us. Your youthful energy brings vitality to our community. You are a clear sign of God in our midst."

Enrollment for Confirmation Due: October 16

Candidate's Full Name _____
First Middle Last

Date of Birth: *Month/Day/Year* _____

Address _____

Father's Name _____
First Initial Last

Mother's Name _____
First Initial Last Maiden

I understand that by enrolling in this confirmation process, I am expected to attend all the regularly assigned sessions as well as weekend parish liturgies. I promise to give of myself and my abilities in the service of others.

Candidate Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Sacramental Records

To be recorded in the Official Confirmation Record of the parish.

Baptism Date _____

Name of Church of Baptism _____

Address of Church of Baptism _____

First Eucharist Date _____

Name of Church of First Eucharist _____

Address of Church of First Eucharist _____

Parent Letter to The Pastor

Due: October 23

Your child is free to respond to God's call to live his/her faith more deeply – to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Christian. He/She, of course, has needed your guidance and witness to come to this moment of desiring Confirmation. **To show your support of your child's decision to continue his/her faith journey, please write a letter to your pastor requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation from your child.**

Address your letter to Father Raymond Burkle.

Here are some suggestion for the format of the letter:

1. Introduce yourself, conveying something about your family or your background that brings you and your child to this moment of faith.
2. Request the sacrament for your child giving several reasons why you feel it is important for your child to be confirmed and how he/she has prepared for the Sacrament.
3. Explain how you will support your child during this time of preparation. Mention how you share your prayer life as parents or as family; how you celebrate other Sacraments like Sunday or daily Eucharist or Reconciliation; how you give stewardship or service for others as a parent, as a family, or within the community.
4. Share your letter with your child before you mail it. (You might want to make a copy of it to keep for a memento.)
5. Send the letter to the Sacred Heart Faith Formation Center in a sealed envelope with the words, "**Attention Father Raymond Burkle**". A checklist is being kept, to track all letters.

CONFIRMATION

Candidates:

- ❖ Must be baptized and not confirmed.
- ❖ Must **FREELY** choose to be confirmed and make their wish known.
- ❖ Must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions.
- ❖ Must be practicing their faith by attending Mass and receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation often.
- ❖ Must complete weekly Mass worksheets.
- ❖ Are responsible for completing all required home study, assignments, and service ministries.
- ❖ Must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, retreat, etc.
- ❖ Must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continue the faithful practice and study of their religion.

Parents:

- ❖ **Must worship together at weekly Sunday Eucharist.**
- ❖ **Must guide the candidate in the growth of the faith through family activities such as reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, family prayer and faith-sharing conversations, study, and Christian service.**
- ❖ **Must strive to be living examples of faith and good moral judgment.**
- ❖ **Must attend all meetings and programs in preparation for the sacrament.**
- ❖ **Must support the preparation by responding to candidate's questions, assuring attendance and participation in faith formation classes and supervising the completion of ministries.**
- ❖ **Must assist the candidate in choosing a qualified Sponsor and Confirmation name.**
- ❖ **Must make a written request of the pastor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for their child.**
- ❖ **Must present a certificate of Baptism and verification of First Eucharist (if not already on file).**

Sponsors:

Being a sponsor is not just an honor. The sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Catholic Church, who can be a role model for the candidate. Ideally, you should choose one of your Godparents from Baptism, provided he or she meets the above guidelines. If it is not possible to choose a godparent as your sponsor (e.g. they are deceased, live too far away, or are no longer a practicing Catholic), then you might ask someone else whom you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic. This could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, other relative, family friend, parent of one of your friends, a teacher. The requirements of the Catholic Church say that a sponsor:

- ❖ Must be a **practicing** (actively involved in the parish) **Confirmed** Catholic, at least 16 years of age (with the approval from the Pastor), who is willing to mentor the candidate in developing a faith in God, worship within the community and spirituality.
- ❖ Is a person who attends Sunday Mass weekly and celebrates the sacraments.
- ❖ Must attend the sponsor/candidate classes.
- ❖ Must be able to meet with the candidate before Confirmation to sufficiently share and establish a relationship in faith that will last throughout the candidate's lifetime.
- ❖ Must be able to attend the Candidate/Sponsor Sunday, February 7, Mass at 12:00pm at Sacred Heart followed by class in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall.
- ❖ Must be able to attend Confirmation on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at Sacred Heart Church.
- ❖ May not be a parent of the candidate.

Sponsor Information Form

Due: November 6

Your sponsor is a symbol representing the adult Catholic community. One of your godparents, who may already be very much involved with in your life, would generally be a good choice to emphasize the unity between the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. Otherwise, you should choose someone whom you admire, see quite often, and with whom you will likely have a long-term relationship. The sponsor should be someone who can actually accompany and assist you in unfolding the gift of the Spirit in your life; a person who will help you to bring this gift to maturity in the Christian community. A parent is not allowed to sponsor their child.

A sponsor for Confirmation must be sufficiently mature to fulfill the duties of being a sponsor. Specifically, a sponsor must be **A)** a practicing and actively involved Catholic who has already received the three Sacraments of Initiation, (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), **B)** be at least 16 years of age, **C)** have the time and willingness to undertake this ministry, **D)** have experiences in common with the candidate and **E)** fully intend to serve as a model an guide for the candidate in his/her preparation living out of the sacrament.

The role of the sponsor includes:

1. Helping to prepare the candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation through support, prayer, and Catholic example.
2. Bringing the candidates to receive the sacrament and presenting him/her to the Bishop for the anointing with Holy Chrism.
3. Being a continual guide for the newly confirmed in order that he/she fulfill the baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate Name _____

Sponsor Name _____

Sponsor Address _____

Sponsor Phone Number _____

Sponsor Email _____

Parish of Sponsor _____

Parish Address _____

I, _____ certify that I meet all the requirements stated above. I accept my obligations to the candidate and to the Catholic Church.

Confirmation Saint Report

Due: January 29, 2021

The tradition of taking a saint's name in Baptism is an ancient practice in the church. The patron saint becomes a role model for the person and an example of how the Gospel can be lived in a practical way. In many Catholic countries today, one's saint name day (feast day) is celebrated instead of one's birthday. Saints are heroes of the faith who lived their lives as examples of faith, hope, and love. We venerate them as we do members of our own families who have died and whom we continue to honor with their pictures in our homes.

The Sacrament of Confirmation give us the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage us to live out our baptismal commitment to love and serve others, especially those most in need. We can either be confirmed with our original baptismal name or take a saint's name who will also be a patron saint for us. **Everyone must choose a Saint Name.**

Research the saint's name you choose for Confirmation. Use the Internet for interesting information on your saint and to find a picture.

REPORT FORMAT

The report should include the following:

1. An Introduction (Interesting information about the saint you chose)
2. Biography
 - a. History, date of birth, location, family
 - b. General information about the saint
 - c. What did this saint do? What is the saint known for? What is the saint's patronage?
 - d. Canonization date, feast day
3. Conclusion
 - a. Why did you choose this saint?
 - b. What qualities do you admire in this saint?
 - c. Which Gifts of the Holy Spirit are evident in this Saint's life? Explain.
 - d. What characteristics would you like to imitate?

SAINT'S IMAGES & INFORMATION

Use the following for images and information about the saints:

<http://www.catholiconline.com>

<http://www.americancatholic.com>

<http://www.newadvent.org>

*There are several books in the Sacred Heart Faith Formation library.

ASSIGNMENT DUE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021. DROP-OFF AT THE SACRED HEART CHURCH OFFICE OR MAIL TO SACRED HEART FAITH FORMATION CENTER, 218 S 12TH STREET, OSAGE, IA 50461

Candidate Letter to Pastor

Due: February 12, 2021

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness, and serve as a confirmed Catholic. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to write a letter of request to the Pastor of your Parish, Father Raymond Burkle. Please include the following information:

- Introduce yourself...
- What does my Catholic faith represent to me?
- Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
- Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important to tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of other sacraments, your service to others, etc.
- Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service of God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.
- Feel free to ask any questions to Fr. Ray. Depending on the question, he may or may not respond back.

Send the letter to the Sacred Heart Faith Formation Center in a sealed envelope with the words, "**Attention Father Raymond Burkle**". A checklist is being kept, to track all letters.

Confirmation Interviews

All Confirmation interviews will be done with Fr. Ray. A sign-up sheet for the interviews will be discussed during their Faith Formation class in February.

When the dates have been set, if those dates and times will not work for your schedule, please call Fr. Ray at 732-4342 (work), 832-2671 (home), or 563-580-2197 (cell) to reschedule. These interviews must be scheduled by the candidate and be completed prior to confirmation.