

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

The sacrament of Confirmation, together with the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, constitute the sacraments of initiation. These three sacraments lay the foundation for every Christian life. We are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, which is the food of eternal life. By Means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, we thus receive, in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1212).

In particular, "the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of confirmation, we are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. We are true witnesses of Christ and more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by our words and actions" (CCC, 1285).

In order for one to receive confirmation, it is required that a person, who has the use of reason, be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises.

WHAT IS THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS?

The purpose of our program is to increase the candidates understanding and appreciation for the Catholic faith that they might be better prepared to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, as well as spread and defend their faith. The candidates prepare themselves over a two-year period by participating in classes, retreats, writing a Saint's paper, doing service projects, building a candidate and sponsor relationship, attending Mass, and receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation.

CLASSES

Classes are 1 1/2 hours in length. There are twelve to thirteen classes and activities per year as scheduled by the Faith Formation Office. Students are expected to attend all classes and planned events. If there is a serious reason (illness/family emergency) you cannot make it to a class or event please call the faith formation office.

MASS

All Catholics are expected to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, as well as receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year.

Therefore, all candidates for confirmation are expected to attend mass every Sunday and will need to turn in a mass commitment card into the collection basket at mass. If you attend at a different parish, please bring a bulletin from the Church where you attended mass to your next confirmation class.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday evening Vigil – 5 p.m.

Sunday morning – 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Confessions are heard Saturday afternoon from 4 – 4:45 p.m. or by appointment.

Choosing a Sponsor

Your sponsor should be a person that can fulfill the role of a spiritual role model. In particular, they should be able to assist you in understanding and practicing your Catholic faith. Your sponsor will help guide you before and after your confirmation, helping you to renew and live out your baptismal promises. Therefore, it is important that your sponsor is someone with whom you can speak freely and openly. However, this relationship can and should develop through the course of your preparation and so if you notice someone who would be a good sponsor that you are not currently close with, do not be afraid to ask.

Since, there is an intimate connection between baptism and confirmation, it is often desirable that one of your godparents be chosen as your confirmation sponsor. However, it might be wise to choose someone different if you no longer have contact with either of your godparents or if you find that another person is better suited to fulfill the role of sponsor.

The qualifications for sponsors are:

- † There can only be either one male or one female sponsor
- † Must be 16 years of age or older
- † Must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- † Must be a practicing Catholic, who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on (will need to obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their parish)
- † May not be the mother or father of the candidate
- † May not belong to a Christian church that is not Catholic