

Preparation for the

Sacrament of Confirmation

Who?

Students entering the eighth grade will be enrolled in our Confirmation preparation classes. All students that enter into the Confirmation Program must be enrolled in our Parish RE Program or Montini Catholic School this year. Additionally, all candidates must have completed a prior year of preparation to be preparing for their Sacrament this year.

What?

This program is designed to help our Confirmation students come to a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and in the life of our Church, and how they can interact with that Spirit to lead a life that will draw them into a closer relationship with God. This program is a faith formation program that will prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

St. Patrick Confirmation Program requires a commitment of the candidate, the parents and the sponsor. If you want to be good at a particular sport, you need to learn the fundamentals, condition yourself and dedicate yourself to it. The same is true of spiritual strength. In order to be a good Christian a certain amount of commitment is needed. **Each of our classes is vital to the Confirmation program. We ask families to make Confirmation classes a priority. If you are unable to or uncomfortable in attending face-to-face at this time, please contact the religious education office to arrange virtual meetings at an alternative time.**

When?

Confirmation classes will be held on Sunday mornings between the 9am and 11am Masses. The schedule for the fall will be as follows (additional spring classes will be added in November)

October 25 and November 22 (with spring classes added in November)

We intend to give time for parents to gather for fellowship and faith sharing in the spring. At this time, we do not have parent meetings planned due to current recommendations for the safety and space from the Diocese.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: Saturday, March 6 – more details to come

Because this is an immediate prep program students will not be allowed to miss any classes. If they miss any class, it is possible they will be held to the next year of preparation.

Where?

All classes will be held at St. Patrick Church in the **Muldoon Hall** in the basement of the church.

Details: (Please mark all paperwork returned to the Parish Office with “Attn: Confirmation”)

Baptismal Certificate: If you were baptized at a Church other than St. Patrick, the RE office must have a copy of your baptismal certificate. Your Church of baptism is your Church of record. We need to notify your baptismal Church of your Confirmation Sacrament. (Canon 895, CIC) This should be turned in with your registration form by **October 14, 2020**.

Confirmation Name and Saint Report: This is an ancient custom in the Catholic Church. The name chosen should be that of a canonized Saint of the Church. Name of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being Confirmed.

Current practice regarding the selection of a Confirmation name shows the connection between the Sacraments of Initiation. The traditional view has been to take a new name to signify a new life in the Spirit. The current trend is to retain one’s baptismal name to show the continuity between all three sacraments of initiation and to signify the awakening to the Holy Spirit who is already present within us.

You must make your selection by **November 22, 2020** and return the Confirmation name form to the RE office. You must also complete a one page report on your saint and turn it into the RE Office by November 22, 2020 as well. Please mark envelope with “Attn: Confirmation”.

Letter to Father Godwin: Before the celebration of Confirmation the pastor of our parish is required by canon law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should also know that you have a desire to receive the sacrament and have knowledge of the sacrament. To help our pastor meet his responsibility, we ask that each Confirmation candidate write a letter to him. **The letter should be in formal letter form and not done as a report.** Please address **all** of the following in your letter:

- Address your letter to our Pastor, **Fr. Godwin**
- **Paragraph 1:** State your name, grade, and name of school. State that you desire to be Confirmed and why you want to be Confirmed
- **Paragraph 2:** State what Confirmation means to you personally and also include, in your own words, why you feel ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Note: It does not mean that you are becoming an adult in the Catholic Church.) (What have you learned through your Confirmation classes that has prepared you for the Sacrament of Confirmation?)
- **Paragraph 3:** State your Confirmation name and why you decided on this name. State something about the Saint whose name you have chosen. (Please do not list that it is your father’s name, etc. Please give factual reasons as to why you chose this name).
- **Paragraph 4:** State who your sponsor will be and why you have chosen this person.
- Sign your letter

Your letter to the Pastor is due on **December 16, 2020**. Please mail it to the St. Patrick Religious Education Office, Attn: Confirmation Letter to the Pastor, 3500 Washington Street, McHenry, IL 60050. That way we can check it off your list of paperwork received and then give it to Father Godwin. These letters are held in the strictest confidence and are only read by Father Godwin. Remember these are your private reflections regarding how you feel about the sacrament of Confirmation and your readiness to receive this sacrament. You can either hand write it or type it, but please check your spelling and punctuation. Please make sure you spell his name correctly. If you have any questions regarding the letter, please call the Religious Education Office and we will be happy to assist you.

Confirmation Sponsor: Your Confirmation sponsor must be a baptized Catholic who is at least 16 years of age and has made their Confirmation. They must be a practicing Catholic who is registered at a Parish and attending Mass regularly. When possible it is recommended that one of the baptismal sponsors (godparents) be the sponsor for Confirmation, as it emphasizes the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. The sponsor cannot be the candidate's mother or father. **Sponsors must provide St. Patrick with a current Baptismal certificate with notations of all Sacraments in order to be a sponsor.**

The sponsor form is due into the RE office by **January 24, 2021**. Please mark envelope with "Attn: Confirmation".

Fellowship Hours: Due to COVID 19 restrictions this year, we are not requiring fellowship hours. We are asking, however, to have the candidates view the Decision Point videos at home each month. Emails will be sent to indicate which session will be required. All sessions are available at <https://dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/program-view> . We ask you to try to view and discuss the questions from the text with your candidates at home. We will talk about the content when we gather, but due to shorter class times, we will not have time to view the program during class.

Parental Commitment: The Catholic Church recognizes that parents are the primary religious educators of their children. We ask that during this time of Confirmation preparation you guide your child in the following areas:

1. Attend Sunday mass regularly as a family, either in person or virtually
2. Attending parent meetings as organized by the parish or do remote spiritual development if requested
3. Set an example of Christian living at home.
4. Encourage your child to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation when the parish offers it throughout the year.
5. Teach your child to support their parish with their gifts of time, talent and treasure.
6. Commit that your child will attend every class and arrive punctually.
7. Encourage your child to show an interest and respect the teacher.
8. Show an interest in their preparation by asking them about what they are learning in their classes.

Things to study and know

Again, as previously stated in the handbook, each candidate will be required to choose a Confirmation name. It must be the name of a canonized Saint of our Church. **Each candidate will be required to write a one page report on their Saint.** It is due **November 22, 2020.**

Here are a few websites with information on saints that may help you with your selection.

www.catholiconline.com www.lifeteen.com www.americancatholic.org

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
And our hearts shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray. O God,
Who taught the hearts of the faithful
By the light of the Holy Spirit,
Grant us by the same Spirit to delight in
What is right and always to rejoice in his consolation,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Bishop may ask you questions about your Saint as you come forward to be Confirmed. Be prepared!!

You must also know and be able to recite the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. We will learn the definition of them during class time, but it is your responsibility to be able to recite them. Here they are...

Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Understanding, Piety and Fear of the Lord.

Make sure you know these by heart!! The Bishop may ask for them at Confirmation.

We do not have a Confirmation date scheduled yet, but as soon as we receive a date, we will let you. We have requested for April 2021.

Confirmation Name Form

I _____, have chosen the
Candidate Name

Confirmation name of: _____
Saint Name

I have chosen this Saint's name because:

I know these three facts about this Saint:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Signed _____

Dated _____

This form is due into the St. Patrick Religious Education Office by November 22, 2020.

Attach your 1 page report on your Saint to this form please. That report should include details about your Saint's life as well as reasons why you picked that Saint.

If you drop in the drop box, collection basket or mail, please mark envelope: Attn: Confirmation

Confirmation Sponsor Information

There should be one Confirmation sponsor male or female for each candidate.

***The sponsor must be Catholic**

***at least sixteen years old and**

***Baptized, Confirmed and received First Holy Communion**

***living an upright life**

***no penalties (e.g., left the Church, etc.)**

Therefore a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor. The sponsor cannot be a parent of the person being Confirmed.

These regulations are not created by the Pastor or any member of the St. Patrick Church staff. Rather these are the regulations and requirements of the Catholic Church herself. These cannot be changed or altered in any way.

Church law states clearly these matters in Canon 874.1

To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

1. Be designated by the one to be Confirmed, and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
2. Be at least 16 years of age.
3. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
4. Not be bound by a canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
5. Not be the father or the mother of the one to be confirmed.

You have agreed to be a Confirmation Sponsor and now you are asking yourself what do I do?

Here are a few suggestions...

1. Meet with your candidate at least once a month. Get to know them. Pray with them, talk to them about their faith, and ask them about their Confirmation formation classes.
2. Pray for your candidate daily.
3. Learn more about the sacrament of Confirmation. The internet is a great source. You can use www.catholic.org , www.americancatholic.org , www.usccb.org or www.vatican.va. **Please feel free to contact the St. Patrick Religious Education Office if you would like more information about being a sponsor. You can reach the St. Patrick Religious Education Office at 815-385-2959.**
4. Attend mass with your candidate.
5. Learn together! Share information about your own Confirmation and ask them how it is similar to their experience.

You have been asked to be a sponsor because you are an important person in their life. They know they can depend on you. Please take your role as their sponsor seriously and show them that they made the right choice in asking you to be their sponsor. Be a good Christian role model for them.

CONFIRMATION (SPONSOR) FORM

Full Baptismal Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Full Name of Sponsor: _____

Maiden Name (if applicable): _____

Catholic Confirmation Sponsor:

I have been chosen by the above candidate’s parents to serve in the role of Confirmation sponsor. I understand that this is more than just an honor given to a family friend or relative. I commit to assist the child and his/her parents in their faith journey as they strive to live a Christian life through the Catholic Church.

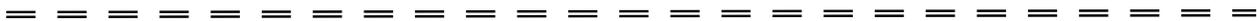
A recently issued Baptismal certificate (dated within the last 6 months) with all notations of sacraments (Confirmation/Eucharist) or a separate certificate for each of the received Sacraments is required. (This can be requested from church of your Baptism).

I testify that I fulfill the following requirements of Church Law for a sponsor:

- I am a Catholic who has been confirmed, has received Eucharist, and leads a life in harmony with the beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- I am at least 16 years old, and am not the father or mother of the person who is being Confirmed
- If married, I state that my marriage is in accord to the church’s regulation.

Signature of Sponsor: _____

Please take this form to your home Parish for certification by your Parish Priest.



I state to the best of my knowledge that _____
(Name of Sponsor)
meets the requirements for Confirmation Sponsor:

<i>Affix</i>	Signature of Pastor/Associate _____
<i>Church</i>	Parish _____
<i>Seal Here</i>	City, State _____
	Date _____

(Please see reverse side for requirements to be a Confirmation Sponsor)

Any questions, please contact Lisa Johnson, reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org or 815-385-2959. Please return this form and baptismal certificate no later than January 24, 2021 to:

St. Patrick Catholic Church
 Religious Education Office/Attn: Confirmation
 3500 Washington Street
 McHenry, IL 60050 Fax Number: (815) 385 0861, Attn: Confirmation