



CONFIRMATION AT THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION 2019

ST. PAUL

“In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.”

ST. AMBROSE

“Remember, then, that you received a spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear. Keep safe what you received. God the Father sealed you, Christ the Lord strengthened you and sent the Spirit into your hearts as the pledge of what is to come.”

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IMPORTANT DATES

Requirement	Due Date	✓
Candidate/Parent Info Meeting	1/27/19 6:15 pm in Community Rm	
Candidate/Sponsor (or parent) Meeting	9/8/19 6:00 pm in Selbert Hall	
Enrollment Mass	9/15/19 5:00 pm in Church	
<i>Commitment Form</i>	9/15/19	
<i>Baptismal Certificate</i>	9/15/19	
<i>Saint Name Reflection</i>	9/15/19	
<i>Sponsor Certification Form</i>	9/15/19	
<i>Works of Mercy Log & Reflection</i>	9/15/19	
Confirmation Retreat (check one attended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10/21-23/18 ○ 10/25-27/19 (make up) 	
Class Attendance (check all attended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9/15/19 ○ 9/22/19 ○ 9/29/19 ○ 10/6/19 ○ 10/13/19 	
Confirmation Interview	10/19-20/19 (TBD) In Formation Office	
<i>Letter of Intent</i>	Due at interview (TBD)	
Rehearsal	11/2/19 6:00 pm in Church	
Confirmation (actual date TBD as set by Bishop)	<i>11/3/19 or 11/10/19</i> 5:00 pm in Church	

ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1316-1321

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, **imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character** on the Christian's soul; for this reason, one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.

In the Latin Church this sacrament is administered when the **age of reason** has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond.

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must:

- profess the faith
- be in the state of grace
- have the intention of receiving the sacrament
- and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.

The **essential rite of Confirmation** is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism, together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: "Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti" (Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.) in the Roman rite.

When Confirmation is celebrated separately from Baptism, its connection with Baptism is expressed, among other ways, by the renewal of baptismal promises. The celebration of Confirmation

during the Eucharist helps underline the unity of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

From YOUCAT (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church) #205

What happens in Confirmation?

To be confirmed means to make a “covenant” with God. The confirmed says, “Yes, I believe in you, my God’ give me your Holy Spirit, so that I might belong entirely to you and never be separated from you and may witness to you throughout my whole life, body and soul, in my words and deeds, on good days and bad.” And God says, “Yes, I believe in you, too, my child—and I will give you my Spirit, my very self. I will belong entirely to you. I will never separate myself from you, in this life or eternally in the next. I will be in your body and your soul, in your words and deeds. Even if you forget me, I will still be there—on good days and bad.”

Policies from the Diocese of Buffalo and Annunciation Parish

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes one's initiation into the Catholic faith. It is the policy in the Diocese of Buffalo that young people seeking Confirmation be prepared to do so after at least two years of adolescent (high school) faith formation. Therefore, the sacrament will be celebrated when in 11th-grade.

CANDIDATE’S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Confirmation Prep (Spring and Summer 2019)

It is the responsibility of the candidate to gather all necessary paperwork and **turn it in on 9/15/19**. Detailed instructions and forms can be found on our website at <http://bit.ly/2019-confirm>.

All paperwork must be received prior to the start of immediate preparation (classes) for the candidate to be properly prepared and presented for reception of the sacrament. Paperwork due includes:

Certificate of Baptism

It is important that you make a copy of your baptismal certificate to turn in to the faith formation office. Even if you were baptized at Annunciation, you should still procure a copy of your certificate, so we can verify our records and make sure all your information will appear correctly on your Confirmation certificate. If you do not have a copy, you can call the parish office and they can provide you with one.

Commitment Form

The Commitment Form lists out the expectations that Annunciation has for each of its Confirmation Candidates:

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- *I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.*
- *I will attend and will fully participate in all Confirmation sessions and activities.*
- *I will turn in all assignments on the due date.*
- *I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort.*
- *I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me.*
- *I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.*
- *I will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.*

- *I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish, and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others.*
- *I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope, and love.*
- *I attest that I have completed two years of high school faith formation.*

Candidates are asked to carefully review the expectations and if they feel they are ready and able to meet these commitments, they should sign the form and return it at the Enrollment Mass, to be officially considered a candidate for Confirmation.

Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor & Sponsor Certification Form

Choosing Your Sponsor—It is a very ancient custom of the Church that candidates for Confirmation select a sponsor who will help them persevere in the faith. They represent the Christian community and are to see that the newly confirmed act as true witnesses of Christ living out the obligations of the Sacrament. When choosing a sponsor for yourself please ask:

- Why am I choosing this person?
- Does he/she share and live his/her Catholic faith?
- Is he/she mature, confirmed, and practicing his/her faith?
- Does this person exhibit his/her commitment to Christ and the Church?
- Does the person have knowledge of his/her faith?

You should not make this decision simply based on friendship or to repay a favor. Your sponsor shows you how to live the Catholic faith by their example. Please pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance. If your sponsor cannot be present for the Confirmation ceremony, you will have to choose a proxy. The qualifications for a proxy are the same as those required for a sponsor. The proxy must also obtain certification from the parish in which he or she is registered. The requirements of the church for serving as sponsor are:

- The person designated is at least 16 years of age.
- The person designated is confirmed.

- The person designated partakes in the Eucharist, lives in accord with Church teaching including Her moral expectations, and actively practices their Faith.
- The person designated is Catholic.
- The person designated CANNOT be your mother or father.
- It is desirable that the person who undertook the role of Godparent at Baptism should also be designated sponsor at Confirmation.
- The person designated must obtain certification to be your sponsor. See the information below.

The Confirmation Sponsor Certification Form is a document that your chosen sponsor will need to complete with the assistance of their pastor. Their pastor is responsible for certifying that the sponsor meets the requirements of being a Confirmation sponsor. The form will need to be signed by him and should include the parish seal.

Confirmation Name & Reflection Paper

The Confirmation Name Form is the way that you formally declare the Confirmation Name you have chosen. We must verify that your Confirmation Name is not “foreign to Christian sensibilities” (Canon 855). Your Confirmation name will be used during Confirmation and will be recorded in the Confirmation register.

Almost everyone has two names: A first name and a last name. Your first name tells others who you are. Your last name tells others what family you belong to.

Names are a sign of identity. Maybe you were named after a saint, a family member, or both. If so, you may draw inspiration from the way they lived their lives, especially in the service of God and the Church. Your name probably means something too. For instance, the name, Matthew, means “gift of God,” and this identity could motivate you to try to be a gift, and be generous with what God has given you.

One of the benefits of the Sacrament of Confirmation is choosing, or reaffirming, your Christian identity by choosing a new confirmation

name or sticking with your baptismal name. Because the Sacrament of Confirmation is an opportunity to enter into a deeper relationship with God and with the Church, the Church asks you to either reaffirm your Catholic-Christian identity by being confirmed with your baptismal name, or by choosing a new name, one of a saint or blessed in the Church, from whom you will draw inspiration. The Church's preference is that you are confirmed with your baptismal name, if it meets the condition, but all candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation, are invited to choose a new name for their Confirmation if they desire to. Your confirmation name is used in the ceremony.

Some websites that might help for your research:

www.catholicsaints.com

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

Candidates are to write a two-page reflection paper on their chosen saint (typed, double-spaced, normal margins, 12-point font). The reflection paper should include:

- Name of chosen saint
- Saint's date of birth and death
- Where the saint was born, lived and died
- When the saint was canonized
- A summary of the saint's life and accomplishments
- A summary of why you chose the saint

[Works of Mercy Service Log & Reflection Paper](#)

The Works of Mercy component of our Confirmation Program is designed to help you learn what unselfish service really means. **You are expected to complete at least twenty-four (24) hours of service as part of your Confirmation Program.** You are urged to perform far more than the mere 24 hours minimum and to continue to help others in these ways after your Confirmation.

You may complete this service individually or as part of a group. These service projects are to be your free expression of sincere Christian help for others.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, one of the effects of the sacrament of Confirmation is to “give us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.”

In order to prepare yourself to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, it is important that you spend time going out into the world and being Christ to others. There are many ways you can do that, and to help you start, below are four categories that will introduce you to new and familiar ways to serve others, including your family. Hopefully the suggestions listed below will help you see the needs of those around you. Please pay careful attention to how you obtain the 24 required hours of service – you must have six hours in each of the four categories.

The events listed below are only suggestions, and you are free to find alternative ways to attain the appropriate hours if they are comparable. However, we do encourage participation in the community events at Annunciation since they provide you with opportunities to foster a closer peer community.

The categories are as follows:

1. **Family:** Chores that are above and beyond those already expected of you and that are something you wouldn't normally choose to do are the best example. You should seek the advice of a parent, grandparent or even your YD Mentor if you need suggestions.
2. **Parish:** These hours should be obtained through assisting at events at the parish. There are many opportunities, and we are happy to help you determine which would be the most fitting for you. A few examples are volunteering to babysit during our monthly family formation sessions, being an aide in a faith formation class, volunteering at the parish picnic, volunteering at a Kids Night Out event, etc.
3. **Community:** Most events that benefit others, in the community, are the best way to fulfill your service hours. These might include

volunteering at the Special Olympics, an animal shelter, a hospital, a nursing home, etc. You may count hours that you are also counting for school in this category. Additionally, we will offer a day of service retreat in April that would give you four hours in this category.

4. **Spiritual:** Though this category may seem too vague, it is by far one of the most beneficial. Participation at any special Mass or service would most likely qualify, such as the Holy Week services, going to Confession, and attending the Stations of the Cross. You could say a Rosary with a family member, spend time reading Scripture and discussing it with a parent, or attend Convention, March for Life, or some other special retreat.

Another thing to remember when working to fulfill your 24 hours (6 per category) is that you can only count four hours per event. Each event must be a minimum of one hour (see exceptions below), and you will need a supervising adult to sign the service log. Participation at Mass counts in the parish category, in the following ways:

- Altar Server (1 hour per Mass)
- Usher, Greeter, Gift Bearer (15 minutes – if you do it 4 times it counts for 1 hour- you can mix and match to add up to the 1 hour)
- Lector (1 hour per Mass)
- POP Culture (1 hour per Mass)

[Rite of Enrollment Mass \(9/15/19\)](#)

The immediate preparation for Confirmation formally begins with the Rite of Enrollment, when the students officially and publicly state their desire to enter into preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This formal declaration will be celebrated at Mass on Sunday, September 15, at 5:00 pm in the church. Candidates will stand and state their names and make their commitment to the requirements of Confirmation. **Students will hand in the Commitment Form at the end of the ceremony when they officially become Candidates.**

[Confirmation Prep \(Fall 2019\)](#)

The stage of immediate preparation for Confirmation includes the following, which the candidate is expected to perform:

Attendance

1. **Attend all sessions*** being held for Confirmation preparation.

Session format will be as follows:

- **5:00 Mass in Church**
- **6:00 Pizza in Selbert**
- **6:15 Class in Selbert**
- **7:45 Adoration in Church**
- **8:00 Dismissal**

Session days and times:

- **Session #1:** The Power of the Holy Spirit - Sunday, September 15th includes candidates and sponsors.
- **Session #2:** The Holy Spirit in Scripture – Sunday, September 22nd (optional attendance for sponsors)
- **Session #3:** Moved to Mission – Sunday, September 29th (optional attendance for sponsors)
- **Session #4:** The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit – Sunday, October 6th (optional attendance for sponsors)
- **Session #5:** The Rite of Confirmation – Sunday, October 13th (optional attendance for sponsors)

Candidates will be expected to select one (1) Mass where they will either be a reader, greeter/usher, bring up the gifts, or sing with POP Culture. Sign ups will be at the information meeting on 9/8/19.

2. **Attend a Confirmation retreat*** which will be held at Christ the King Seminary Friday, October 25th – Sunday, October 27th (This is ONLY for students that did not attend the Confirmation retreat October 21st - 23rd in 2018. If you attended the retreat at Camp Turner, you have met this requirement. However, you are most welcome to join the 2019 retreat - if you'd like).
3. Attend the **rehearsal** in the church on Saturday, November 2nd at 6:00-8:00 p.m. with your sponsor and/or a parent.
4. Participate regularly in the life of the Church by attending **Sunday and Holy Day Mass**, receiving the Sacraments, including **Reconciliation**, and actively giving service to others.

***Attendance at all sessions and the retreat is mandatory.** There is no make up policy for missing any of these events, as it is not possible to recreate the group experience or the discussion. It is expected that if

Confirmation is a priority and given almost seven months' notice, Confirmation will take priority over all other commitments and events. Sporting events and other obligations will not be excused and may cause a student to delay their confirmation until the following year. In the case of SERIOUS illness or a death in the family, we will work with the candidate – on a case by case basis, to make sure the candidate is ready.

Readiness

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time (during the 11th-grade year in the Diocese of Buffalo). Without Confirmation, Christian initiation remains incomplete. To receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a candidate must:

- Be baptized (Canon 889.1) and provide a copy of the Baptismal Certificate
- Request to receive the sacrament (Canon 885.1)
- Attend catechetical classes prior to and including the 10th grade year
- Be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew baptismal promises (Canon 889.2)
- Be in a state of grace (CCC 1310) – have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Because candidates need to be in a state of grace (have no mortal sin on their souls) in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, they should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Confirmation day. Most parishes offer Reconciliation on Saturdays and You can also schedule a time to meet with a priest if the Saturday times will not work for you.

When you go to Confession, you should follow the Rite of Penance that you were taught when you prepared for your First

Reconciliation. If you do not remember it, the priest will help you. The Rite is as follows:

Rite of Penance

Penitent: Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (approximate length of time) since my last confession. (Now list the sins that you can remember, especially all mortal sins)

Priest: (He will counsel you and perhaps give you advice for how to avoid these sins in the future. He will give you a penance, which will be either an action or some prayers. Then he will ask you to make an Act of Contrition.)

Penitent: (Pray the Act of Contrition) O my God, I am sorry for my sins with all heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid whatever may lead me to sin. Amen.

Priest: (Pronounces the Words of Absolution—the penitent makes the Sign of the Cross)

Thank the priest and go do your penance.

Interview (10/19/19 – 10/20/19)

Candidates will be asked to schedule an interview with Fr. Gene and/or a member of staff or catechist to discuss their readiness for the sacrament and to ensure the candidate has been fully prepared.

Candidates will be expected to know and should be prepared to discuss the following teachings of the Catholic Church, to demonstrate their readiness:

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Two Commandments of Love (Mt. 22:36-40)

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)

Do to others as you would have them do to you.

The Five Precepts of the Church

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and remain free from work or activity that could impede the sanctification of such days.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The Seven Capital Sins (Deadly Sins)

Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy, Sloth

The Three Theological Virtues (1 Cor. 13:13)

Faith, Hope, Charity

The Four Cardinal Virtues (Wisdom 8:7)

Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude

The Four Last Things

Death, Judgment, Hell, Heaven

The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3) Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude (Courage), Knowledge, Piety (Reverence), Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control, Chastity

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy (Mt. 25:31-46)

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.

5. Forgive offences.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

The Parts of the Bible

- Old Testament: Torah (Pentateuch), Historical Books, Wisdom Literature, Prophets (Major and Minor)
- New Testament: Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), History (Acts), St. Paul's Letters to Churches, St. Paul's Letters to Friends, Catholic Letters, Prophecy (Revelation)

The Holy Days of Obligation (USA)

- Mary, the Mother of God – January 1
- Ascension – Thursday after the 6th Week of Easter
- Assumption of Mary – August 15
- All Saints Day – November 1
- The Immaculate Conception – December 8
- The Nativity (Christmas) – December 25

The Seven Sacraments

- Of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (Holy Communion)
- Of Healing: Reconciliation (Penance or Confession), Anointing of the Sick
- Of Service and Vocation: Holy Orders, Matrimony (Marriage)

The Three Types of Prayer

Vocal, Meditation, Contemplation

Letter of Intent (Due at interview)

Confirmation is not a sacrament that someone receives as a matter of course. As a Confirmation Candidate at Annunciation, you will write a letter to Fr. Gene, requesting permission to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the letter, you must indicate your readiness and desire to receive Confirmation. Please mention something about yourself, the school you attend, and something about your family. In your own words, explain how you have become more knowledgeable about the truths of the Catholic faith through your religious instruction classes, and are prepared to profess this faith, as well as, assume

responsibility to spread and defend it. You are also welcome to share something about your Confirmation saint's name, such as, what impressed you about your saint. You may also want to include something about your service projects. **Candidates are required to complete the letter to Fr. Gene and return it at their interview the weekend of 10/19-10/20.**

Please make sure that your writing is clean, legible and readable. Use proper grammatical skills (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.) The following is a SAMPLE outline for reference. Please use this as a guide but make it from your own heart and in your own words... it is only a GUIDE.

Dear Fr. Gene,

It is my desire to receive an increase of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. I have been preparing for these Gifts during the past two years of faith formation.

- *I would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because...*
- *During my life I would like to achieve...*
- *The Gift of Confirmation will help me achieve this by...*
- *I chose my Confirmation Sponsor because...*
- *My Sponsor influences my spiritual life by...*
- *I chose my saint because...*

I feel I am prepared to commit myself to Christ and His Church, and bear witness to the truths of my faith. Therefore, I respectfully petition you to permit me to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely,

PARENTS' ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.” (National Directory for Catechesis, no. 19)

Because parents...

- Are the primary educators of their children
 - Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
 - Serve as models for their children by being committed Christians
- ...parents should expect to:
- Worship with your families regularly.
 - Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of your child.
 - Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective.
 - Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - Pray for your child's spiritual growth every day.
 - Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities, and expectations.
 - Emphasize the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
 - Assist in retreats, service work, meetings, classes, spiritual events, and social events.
 - Faithfully bring your teenager (and when necessary, yourself) to meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help your child prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation is an opportunity for parents to reaffirm their commitment to the Catholic faith and to become refreshed and renewed in their faith life.

This renewed commitment involves developing a genuine desire to participate in the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church as well as a commitment to uphold the **Precepts of the Church**:

1. To attend Mass and rest from servile labor on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
2. To receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year, especially if aware of committing a mortal sin.
3. To receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.
4. To observe the fast days and abstinence days established by the Church.
5. To contribute to the material support of the Church.

SPONSOR'S ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Role of a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidate's immediate preparation so that the sponsor can play an active part in the preparation process. Ideally, it should be someone who has been involved already in the candidate's spiritual formation, such as a godparent, a family member, or a member of the local parish.

Eligibility of a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor **must**:

- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church (Canon 874.3)
- Good standing includes being in a marital state that is blessed by the Church
- Be at least 16 years old (Canon 874.2)
- Belong to the Catholic Church and have been fully initiated (have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) (Canon 874.3)
- Not be the biological parent of the candidate (Canon 874.5)
- Not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor

A sponsor **may**:

- Be the same sponsor the candidate had for Baptism (a godparent)
- Be a new sponsor selected specifically for Confirmation
- Be either male or female for any candidate

Verification of Eligibility: Each name submitted to be a sponsor must be verified in advance of the Confirmation Liturgy by the parish.

Suggestions for Sponsors

- **Be a good Catholic role model.** The primary job of a sponsor is to show a candidate how to live the faith as an adult. This includes going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day, going to Confession regularly, and praying daily. But it also means bringing your faith into the ordinary situations in daily living: being a model of forgiveness, compassion, and personal sacrifice. If you are not growing in holiness yourself, you will not be able to help your candidate grow in holiness.
- **Offer prayer support.** Remember to pray for your candidate every day for the rest of your life. It can be as simple as offering a Hail Mary every morning or as complex as creating your own prayer routine. Remember your candidate in your Mass intention each Sunday and Holy Day. And let him/her know that you are praying for him/her.
- **Show visible spiritual support.** Make it a point to ask your candidate about his/her prayer life on a regular basis. Is he/she getting to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day? If not, how can you help (take him/her yourself, talk to his/her parents about going as a family, etc)? Is he/she getting to Confession regularly? If not, how can you help?
- **Mark the Confirmation Anniversary.** Remember the date that your candidate is confirmed and celebrate it each year. Send a card, make a phone call, or go out to dinner. Do something to remind your candidate (and yourself) that this is a major event in both of your lives.

Liturgy Dress Code for Sponsors

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a once-in-a-lifetime event during which the candidates will solemnly and publicly profess their

personal belief in the ancient Christian faith and accept full membership in the Catholic Church. Out of respect for the importance of the event and the guests in attendance, we request that sponsors adhere to the following guidelines.

Women

Dresses or skirts:

- Should not be shorter than 1" above the knee
- Spaghetti straps, sleeveless, or strapless dresses must be covered by a sweater, scarf, or jacket
- Plunging necklines are prohibited

Shirts:

- Spaghetti straps, sleeveless, or strapless dresses must be covered by a sweater, scarf, or jacket
- Plunging necklines are prohibited
- Undergarments must be covered

Dress pants:

- Pants should not be skin tight or low riding
- Skin or undergarments must be covered

Shoes

- No flip-flops or tennis shoes

Men

Dress pants:

- Pants should not be so loose as to reveal underclothing
- Jeans and athletic apparel are prohibited

Shirts:

- Collared dress shirts and ties are required
- Suit/sport coats are recommended, not required

Shoes

- No flip-flops or tennis shoes

CONFIRMATION LITURGY

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a once-in-a-lifetime special event during which the candidates will solemnly and publicly profess their

personal belief in the ancient Christian faith and accept full membership in the Catholic Church. Candidates should review the Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the Anointing with Chrism to be familiar with what they will be professing.

Dress Code for Candidates

All candidates will wear Confirmation gowns to provide solemnity and uniformity to our celebration of Confirmation. Please follow the Liturgy Dress Code for Sponsors (above).

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Do you renounce Satan and all his works and all his empty show? Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the Apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

The Anointing with Chrism

Each candidate approaches the Bishop and states his/her Confirmation Name. The Sponsor places his/her right hand on the candidate's shoulder. Then, as the Bishop makes the sign of the cross with chrism on the candidate's forehead, he says, "N. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The newly confirmed responds: **Amen.**

The Bishop says, "Peace be with you."

The newly confirmed responds: **And with your spirit.**

The Bishop may shake your hand afterward and/or congratulate you. Do not walk away until it is clear that he is finished.

Photography

Photography is not permitted during Mass. However, we are permitted to have one person act as our photographer. Each year we have been blessed with a parent who has volunteered to be our photographer. This has led to some great shots of the moment of the anointing. If you or someone you know are willing to be our volunteer Confirmation photographer, please contact Melissa as soon as possible to confirm arrangements. Otherwise, the Bishop usually allows a short time, following Mass, for individual shots.

POST CONFIRMATION

It's not uncommon for students and parents going through the Confirmation process to fall into the mindset that Confirmation is the last step of their religious education, after which they "graduate" from having to be involved in the Church (or even having to attend Mass at all!).

So, when the formation classes are over, and the volunteer hours are complete, and you have received the Sacrament of Confirmation . . . What's next?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a livelier familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life." (1309)

Confirmation is the START of life as a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ. With that comes a greater responsibility, not only to share your faith but also to be a continuing example of the faith in and OUT of Church. It is that simple and that challenging. We are now called to go deeper and deeper into our faith so as to grow in our relationship with Christ and His Church. Confirmed Catholics are encouraged to participate in the various ministries at the parish and can serve in other roles as well:

Closer To Christ Teen Leadership Group – CTC students help plan & organize events for our younger students, learn how to witness and evangelize others, are invited on additional trips, camps, retreats, & mission opportunities, and they meet regularly for social events.

Liturgical Ministry – Confirmed Catholics may serve in a variety of liturgical ministries including as a Lector, Usher, Altar Server, Cantor, and Minister of Holy Communion.

Catechetical Ministry – Confirmed Catholics are welcome to perform Catechetical Ministries as a Children's Liturgy of the Word Catechist, a Faith Formation Aide, or as a Catechist after high school graduation.

Baptism and Confirmation Sponsor – Confirmed Catholics who have reached the age of 16 can be Baptismal Sponsors (godparents) and Confirmation Sponsors.

Other Parish Ministries – If you would like to see the full range of ministries at the parish, either check the website or visit the office to pick up a copy of the Parish Ministries Booklet. There are many ways to remain an active member of our parish family!!